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IV.

FOURTH REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

OPERATION OF THE IRISH POOR LAW,

AND THE

EXPEDIENCY OF MAKING ANY AMENDMENT IN ITS ENACTMENTS;

AND TO REPORT THEREON TO THE HOUSE;

TOGETHER WITH

THE MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Evidence taken on the
23d and 27th March;
2d, 20th, 24th, 25th and 27th April,
AND
1st, 3d, 4th and 8th May 1849.

Ordered to be printed 10th May 1849.

FOURTH REPORT.

BY THE LORDS COMMITTEES appointed a SELECT COMMITTEE to inquire into the OPERATION of the IRISH POOR LAW, and the Expediency of making any Amendment in its Enactments; and to report to The HOUSE; and to whom leave was given to report from time to time to The HOUSE; and to whom were referred several PETITIONS and DOCUMENTS relating to the SUBJECT MATTER of the Inquiry:—

ORDERED TO REPORT,

THAT the Committee have met, and further considered the Subject Matter referred to them, and have examined several Witnesses in relation thereto; and have directed the further MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before them, up to this time, to be laid before your Lordships.

10th May 1849.

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The EARL OF ST. GERMANS in the Chair.

GEORGE NICHOLLS, Esquire, is called in, and further examined as follows:

5393. IN the ordinary state of circumstances in Ireland, such as existed anterior to the present calamity, is it your opinion that out-door relief was an applicable remedy, or could be safely resorted to?

No, I think it was not an applicable remedy, and that there was no necessity for it.

5394. In that case you would have relied upon the adequacy of the in-door accommodation provided for the relief of distress?

I would.

5395. In the case of 1839, when there was a considerable destitution, though not general, produced by the failure of the potato crop locally, but not universally, your opinion is recorded in the Report of 1840, that to that state of things, likewise, you considered that out-door relief was not applicable, and that relief should be confined to the Workhouse?

Yes, I abide by that opinion.

5396. Now we will proceed to the case of famine: what is your opinion, then, in the case of such a famine as may be considered to have existed the last two years?

I have always considered it to be impolitic, if not impossible, to legislate for a state of famine. I cannot contemplate the continuance of a state of famine in any district; a famine is the consequence of the earth's ceasing to yield its produce; if there is no produce from the land, there can be no value on which to levy a poor-rate without produce from the earth; and if there be no other means of industry yielding produce, by which the people can be maintained, I cannot contemplate the continuance of population in any district.

5397. But for a time, at the outset of such a description of destitution, amounting to famine, as that which is notorious, and is proved in the papers before the House to have existed in certain districts of Ireland, do you consider that out-door relief would, in that case, be an appropriate remedy?

I think that out-door relief, at the commencement of such a state of things as have existed in Ireland, might, with advantage, although not without some danger, be resorted to; but it should be carefully fenced round with guards and provisions to prevent abuse. If the Committee please, I will state my reasons for that opinion: it appears to me that out-door relief being permitted under certain circumstances, would tend to increase the efficiency of the Workhouse as a test of destitution, because the chief danger is, not from the aged and infirm, but from the able-bodied paupers, who would constitute the great bulk of applicants; and by giving out-door relief, in certain cases of extreme pressure, to the aged and infirm, who may be considered a definite quantity, and with whom there is less danger of abuse, you might be enabled to deal more effectually with the able-bodied classes. This opinion is founded upon experience in England. There are many cases in which we have brought the Workhouse into more effective operation for the able-bodied, from whom the danger chiefly arises, by giving out-door relief to certain portions of the aged and infirm.

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5398. Then the out-door relief which, in that extreme case, you would contemplate as being practicable, though dangerous, but still expedient, on the ground of necessity, would be a relief for the infirm and the aged, so as to admit the entire application of in-door relief to the able-bodied?

I mean that out-door relief should be permissive in such cases.

5399. Then, is this extension, which, in times of absolute necessity, you contemplate, an extension of out-door relief to the aged, the sick, and the infirm, so as to admit a larger application of the Workhouse test to the able-bodied?

That is one chief reason for it; but I likewise consider that, on the occurrence of a period of scarcity, such as Ireland has unhappily had to pass through, there might, indeed there must, be cases of such intense distress among a portion of the able-bodied, beyond what the Workhouse would be competent to relieve, that, as a matter of necessity, and to prevent destruction of life, it might also be necessary to give some kind of out-door relief to the able-bodied. I should, however, deal with these as exceptional cases, but in those extreme and exceptional cases, I can conceive that it might be necessary to give out-door relief to portions of the able-bodied, to prevent the destruction of life.

5400. Those being your opinions, your attention is requested to your recommendations on this subject, contained in your First Report in the year 1836, in reference to a state of famine. You say, "The strict limitation of relief to the Workhouse may possibly be objected to, on the ground that extreme want is found occasionally to assail large portions of the population in Ireland, who are then reduced to a state bordering upon starvation, and ought, therefore, it may be asserted, to be relieved at the public charge, without being subjected to the discipline of the Workhouse. This, however, is an extreme case, and it would not, I think, be wise to adapt the regulations of Poor Law administration in Ireland to the possible occurrence of such a contingency. In a period of famine, the whole population become, in a great degree, destitute; but it surely would not be expedient to hold out an expectation, that if such an event should unhappily occur, support for all would be unconditionally provided at the public charge. This would lessen the inducements to a provident economizing of their means of support on the part of the people, by a timely resort to which the occurrence of actual famine may often be averted, although dearth and much consequent distress may still arise." You continue, "The occurrence of a famine, however, if general, seems to be a contingency altogether above the powers of a Poor Law to provide for. It must be remembered that then there is an actual deficiency of supply. As there is less to consume, less must be consumed. To assess the rate-payers in order to enable the rate-receivers to continue their ordinary consumption would only shift the suffering." Will you have the goodness to say, whether you consider those opinions to be reconcileable with the opinion which you have now expressed, or whether your opinion has undergone a change, as the effect of subsequent consideration and experience on your part?

I think the opinion which I have just given is not materially at variance with what has now been read from my Report. In that Report the consideration of extreme cases is altogether omitted; there is no attempt to deal with an extreme case. But an extreme case has since arisen; a case of such extremity as was never contemplated at the time when that Report was written.

5401. Then you adhere to the opinions contained in the extract which has been read to you?

I do, as a general rule; that extract omitting all attempt to deal with extreme cases.

5402. Will you have the goodness to state what is the extreme case that you contemplate; is it that of famine?

Yes; but there are different degrees of famine; it may be more or less continuous, and it may be more or less intense. In Ireland it has been not only very intense, but very continuous.

5403 But in the passage in question it is stated as a definition of famine, that it is a case where the whole population is destitute; and it then proceeds to deal with that case, by saying, that the occurrence of a famine, if general, seems to be a contingency altogether above the powers of a Poor Law to provide for;

for; now do you consider that it is within the powers of a Poor Law to provide for a case of famine?

If the whole population of a Union or a district are reduced to a state of actual destitution by famine, it is obvious that no means can be raised from that population for the relief of any portion of it.

5404. Supposing the population of many Unions to be in that state, the principle is the same?

Yes; where in any number of Unions the entire people are reduced to a state of destitution, it is obvious that they cannot afford the necessary means of relief.

5405. And that the case cannot be dealt with by a Poor Law?

Clearly not; there will be no property on which to levy a poor-rate.

5406. Then do you consider it expedient in a permanent Poor Law to make any provision for the case of famine, when you admit that the case of famine cannot be dealt with by a Poor Law?

It is exceedingly difficult to answer the question thus put, the famine adverted to being very much a question of degree. I must say, however, that I do not think it would be wise to legislate expressly for a state of famine, because I cannot conceive it possible that a state of actual famine that is of non-productiveness to such an extent as to destroy property, can long continue in any district. It may continue for a time, for one, two, or, possibly, three years; but it must, if long protracted, inevitably destroy the population of the district, or drive them from it.

5407. You have stated, in one of your previous answers, that you conceive that there is much less danger in giving out-door relief to the aged and infirm, and those classes, than to the able-bodied?

I do.

5408. You are of that opinion now?

Yes.

5409. That is the result of your English as well as of your Irish experience?

It is.

5410. Your attention is requested to this extract from your Second Report:—"It has been recommended by some advocates for out-door relief in Ireland that its administration should be restricted to the aged, sick and infirm; but even with this limitation, how is abuse to be prevented, and how is the precise amount to be defined of that age, or sickness, or infirmity, which shall entitle an individual to be relieved out of the Workhouse? I believe it to be impossible so to define the conditions as to prevent partiality and jobbing, and the occurrence of gross abuses, which would not only be a source of demoralization, but would also serve to engender strifes, jealousies and ill-will in every locality." Then, after that passage, you conclude by stating, in your Second Report, that you retain the opinion which you had originally submitted to Lord John Russell, "That in Ireland relief should be restricted to the Workhouse, or in other words, that no out-door relief should be permitted." Do you adhere to that opinion?

The paragraph which has just been read refers to legislating upon that point. I still believe it impossible, in framing an Act of Parliament, to draw such a legal distinction between those who are sick, aged and infirm, and those who are not, as would be safe and sufficient in working; but I apprehend that the Irish Extension Act does not attempt to draw that distinction; it merely enables the Guardians to give out-door relief, in certain cases, to persons whom they consider to be aged, sick or infirm, leaving to the Guardians a discretion of dealing with each case on its own merits. There is no attempt to define specifically those who are aged, &c., and those who are not. I remember very well the debates upon that point. My conviction then was, and still is, that it would be impossible to draw the line of distinction in a legislative enactment.

5411. Have you ever seen one of the sealed orders under which qualified relief is given in Ireland under the Extension Act?

No; I have not seen a single document in connexion with that subject.

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5412. Those sealed orders are issued under the authority of the Commissioners, and become, in fact, part of the law of the land, as far as they regulate relief?

I presume so.

5413. Then, if you found that in those sealed orders there are distinct definitions attempted to be given, such as widows, widows with one or more children, able-bodied under certain circumstances, and a variety of definitions which you have stated here to be difficult, and if you found that there were various provisions carried into effect under those sealed orders, what observation have you to make upon that subject?

I do not see my way to it, unless the distinction in each case be left to the discretion of the Guardians. I do not say that it cannot be done; but I have no idea how it can be done.

5414. Are you of opinion that in the attempt to define certain classes, you are liable to the danger which you have yourself described in this Report, namely, that there would be partiality and jobbing, and the occurrence of gross abuses, and sources of demoralization, by parties endeavouring to bring themselves under the specified classes, and to obtain relief fraudulently under those definitions?

I think there must be this danger.

5415. You recollect that this question of the out-door relief of the able-bodied was made a subject of grave consideration in the First Report of the English Poor Law Commissioners, on the introduction of the Bill?

Yes.

5416. Do you recollect that that Report starts with the statement, that "the great source of abuse is the out-door relief afforded to the able-bodied on their own account or on that of their families; this is given" (it is added) "either in kind or in money"?

Yes.

5417. And at the conclusion these words are added: "We have dwelt at so much length on the necessity of abolishing out-door relief to the able-bodied, because we are convinced that it is the master evil of the present system. The heads of settlement may be reduced and simplified; the expense of litigation may be diminished; the procedure before the magistrates may be improved; uniformity in parochial accounts may be introduced; less vexatious and irregular modes of rating may be established; systematic peculation and jobbing on the parts of the parish officers may be prevented; the fraudulent impositions of undue burthens by one class upon another class; the tampering with the labour market by the employers of labour; the abuse of the public trust for private or factious purposes may be corrected; all the other collateral and incidental evils may be remedied; but if the vital evil of the system, relief to the able-bodied, on terms more eligible than regular industry, be allowed to continue, we are convinced that pauperism, with its train of evils, must steadily advance, as we find it advancing in parishes where all or most of its collateral and incidental evils are, by incessant vigilance and exertion, avoided or mitigated." Do you think that that represents a fair view of the state of the case, anterior to the improvements in the English Poor Law by the Poor Law Amendment Act?

I think that in the main it does; but I would beg to add, that one of the greatest evils resulting from the practice of giving out-door relief to the able-bodied in England was the application of out-door relief in aid of wages; and the demoralizing effect of that upon the labouring population. I had opportunities of witnessing these effects, antecedently and at the time, in common with others.

5418. That was your opinion then, and it is your opinion now; have you any reason to believe that the same causes in Ireland will not lead to the same consequences, and that, practically, out-door relief to the able-bodied will not act, and does not act, upon wages in Ireland as it did act in England?

I do not see that it necessarily follows that the same abuses will arise in Ireland which had prevailed in England. At the time those abuses prevailed in England, there was no general supervision over the administration of the Poor Law; now there is that supervision, and such abuses exist to a very limited extent, if at all.

5419. You

5419. You will have the goodness to remember that this is a recommendation generally founded upon a statement of facts existing anterior to the new Poor Law, but applied to the system of administration that was to be continued under the new Poor Law?
Yes.

5420. Are there any circumstances in Ireland which lead you to believe that the evils here stated to be incident to out-door relief are less likely to arise in Ireland than they are in England?
I think they could not, there being now a similar supervision in Ireland to that which is established in England.

5421. The question refers to the application of out-door relief in similar circumstances; do you think there is any greater tendency to jobbing on the part of Irish parish officers and Irish parish authorities than exists on the part of English authorities and officers?
There are no parish authorities in Ireland connected with the working of the Poor Law.

5422. Do you think that the Union authorities in Ireland would be more impeccable, in relation to the administration of funds, than the English authorities would be?
I think the Union authorities in Ireland, supervised as they are by the Commissioners, would be less liable to the abuses adverted to, than were the old parochial authorities in England.

5423. The object of the question is distinctly to compare the same things; in Ireland, at the present moment, the Unions are supervised by a general authority, in England they are also supervised by a general authority; now, the question is, whether, under those circumstances, which, so far as supervision goes, are identical, you think that there is a greater or a less disposition to jobbing and misapplication of the public money in Ireland than in England?
I feel great difficulty in answering the question; I suppose there would be at least as much in Ireland as in England.

5424. Do you think that there would be more?
Perhaps there might.

5425. In relation to the effect of intimidation and inducing persons by threat, violence, or apprehended danger to depart from the strict line which duty would require, do you think there is more or less of risk in Ireland than there is in England?
More in Ireland, certainly.

5426. In relation to the habits of the people as to industry and self-dependence, or the opposite vice of being disposed to live upon the funds of others rather than their own industry, which of the two countries stands in the highest point of view?
I must doubtless say England.

5427. In the abuse of public trust for factious purposes, which was one of the evils to which you refer in that Report, where is the greater danger, in England or in Ireland?
I presume in Ireland.

5428. Taking all those matters together, and seeing that all those dangers, in fact, result from the out-door relief system, even applied to a more fortunately circumstanced country, and a country where there is a higher force of public opinion, have you any reason to imagine that those evils will not apply in an aggravated shape in a country where the disposition to error may be greater, and where the restraints would be less?
Comparing the Union system of Ireland as it now exists, with the Union system of England as it now exists, I should say that the tendency to abuse would be greater in Ireland than in England. There are, however, other circumstances somewhat favourable to Ireland; the numerous small parishes in England are causes of abuse in many instances; in Unions where there are great numbers of small parishes there is always a greater tendency to abuse, than where the parishes are larger, and the number comprised in the Union consequently less.

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5429. You say "abuse;" in what way?
In the general administration.

5430. Then there is abuse in both countries; but you think that the tendency to abuse is greater in Ireland than in England?
On the whole, I think so.

5431. Every parish in England returns a Guardian to the Board?
Yes.

5432. Do you conceive that a Board, where there are only small parishes, would be more subject to abuse than a Board where there is only a small number of Guardians and large parishes?
I think there is generally a more lax system of management where the number of parishes is greatest.

5433. Is that in any way owing to the conduct of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman?
No, but I think the fact is so.

5434. To what counties in England would you particularly allude, as showing that tendency?
I do not allude to any particular counties; but it is generally found that Unions which are divided into a great number of parishes, and which consequently have a great number of Guardians, do not work so equally or so effectually as the Unions where there is a smaller number of parishes, and a smaller number of Guardians. In this respect, therefore, I think that Ireland has some advantage, the Electoral Divisions not being so numerous as the English parishes. In some cases we have between 70 and 80 parishes in a Union, and there are 70 or 80 Guardians, independently of those who are Guardians *ex officio;* and in these Unions I think there is generally more friction and less efficiency.

5435. There may be often 70 or 80 Guardians with a very diminished number of parishes?
It is possible, but I am not aware of any case of that kind; my observation merely goes to this, that there is more friction and less efficiency where the executive is very large, than where it is of reasonable and moderate dimensions.

5436. Are the Committee to conclude from the evidence which you have given, that a case of famine like that which has existed in Connaught, is in your judgment an exceptional case, to be dealt with as such, rather than by ordinary provisions under the ordinary law for the relief of the poor?
The long continuance of the famine in the West of Ireland makes it, in my judgment, altogether an exceptional case; it might not have been exceptional in the first year, but its continuance for three or four years takes it certainly out of the usual category of events.

5437. Does not that recommendation of yours of a measure which you admit to be open to objection, and subject to danger, depend upon that measure being effectual for the purpose for which it is intended?
Of course it must be either desirable or not according to its efficiency. I would observe, however, with reference to the term "recommendation," that I was never asked for my opinion, and that I had nothing whatever to do with the framing of the measure.

5438. From a paper which is now before the Committee, showing the cases of 21 Unions in Ireland, it appears that the utmost amount of rate that could be levied under the officers of Government, responsible to the Government, and acting under strict orders, amounted only to 199,000*l.*; and that the relief administered under the same authorities, with economy amounting to parsimony, amounted to 436,000*l.*, showing a deficiency with the maximum amount of rate that could be collected of 237,000*l.*; under those circumstances, do you conceive that to be effectual?
Certainly not; assuming that the last sum was absolutely necessary to be expended to support life, and that no more could be actually raised in the Unions than the sum first named.

5439. Your estimate of the probable amount that would be required under the Poor Law for Ireland was 208,000*l.* a year. You give three estimates there, 312,000*l.*, 260,000*l.*, and 208,000*l.*, and you say, "Our experience of Workhouse administration in England would warrant the adoption of the last of the above assumptions for Ireland; but it may be safer to take the second, which will probably be found to approximate pretty nearly to the truth," namely, 260,000*l.*; that was your estimate?

Yes, and I believe it would have proved a correct estimate under ordinary circumstances.

5440. Do you know the present amount which has been raised up to September 1848?

I do not.

5441. If the amount has exceeded 1,600,000*l.* in the single year ending September 1848, and if the evidence taken before this Committee leads the Committee to expect a similar amount of rate to be required for the present year, was that a result which you ever contemplated?

Certainly not.

5442. You travelled over a considerable portion of Ireland before you made your report?

I did: I believe over every part of it.

5443. Can you tell the Committee what the average poundage rate at the present moment, of the sums raised for the relief of the poor in England, is?

I think it is 1*s.* 10*d.* in the pound on the rateable value.

5444. If the average rate upon Ireland is greater than the poundage rate in England, what do you conceive will be the relative pressure of that upon Irish and upon English property?

Looking at it as an average of the whole, I should not think it would be a heavy pressure upon property, either in England or in Ireland.

5445. The question is relative; do you think that a 2*s.* rate upon Irish property tells in a larger proportion, or in a smaller proportion, than a 2*s.* rate upon English property?

I think it would tell in a somewhat larger proportion in Ireland, Ireland being the poorest country.

5446. Supposing a property of 1,000*l.* a year rated at 1,000*l.* a year, but subject to outgoings and charges of 500*l.* a year; will not the charge upon that property be paid in proportion to the 1,000*l.* a year rateable value, whereas it would be paid out of 500*l.* a year?

If the owner of the property is subject to the payment of 500*l.* on account of the property, the entire rate will of course be paid out of the remaining 500*l.*

5447. Is it not your belief that Irish property is subject to much heavier charges and incumbrances of the description referred to, than property in England?

I have no accurate knowledge upon the subject, but I know enough to warrant my saying that Irish property is generally more encumbered than English property.

5448. Must not, then, a certain amount of poundage rate, 2*s.* in the pound, or any other given amount, be a larger deduction from the free income of Irish property, than from that of English property?

It must, of course, be a larger deduction from the portion of the income left in the hands of the owner; but that is not what I regard as the income arising from the property; the income is the net proceeds after all payments have been deducted which are necessary for keeping up the value of the property. How that net income is disposed of by the owner of the property, is a question we have nothing to do with; it may be kept entire by himself, or it may be paid wholly or in part to others; still it is the income accruing from the property, and as such constituting its value, and liable to the rate.

5449. You remember the cases which are stated to have occurred in England under the old administration of the Poor Law, of lands going out of cultivation

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and farms remaining without occupants, and a great diminution, consequently, of the productive income of the country?
There were statements of that kind.

5450. Were not those statements matters of evidence, and reported not merely as statements, but upon the authority of those gentlemen who were concerned in making those inquiries?
I believe they were.

5451. Have you any doubt of their being true?
I have never met with a case of the kind myself.

5452. If it appears in evidence before this Committee, that good arable land is going out of cultivation in Connaught by thousands of acres, and that those numbers are increasing at the present moment, and if witnesses have stated that supposing the present system and the present calamity to continue, that want of cultivation will go on to increase, would those facts produce any effect upon your mind with respect to the operation of the present Poor Law, and the consequent high rate of charge, amounting to upwards of a million and a half, which you estimated would only amount to 260,000*l.*?
Such a circumstance must no doubt greatly increase the difficulty of working the Poor Law, inasmuch as it would destroy the value of property from which the income for the maintenance of the destitute must be derived.

5453. Would it not at once increase the destitution, and diminish the means of paying the rate?
Unquestionably; but the failure of the crops which has of late prevailed, must account to a great degree, I presume, for the land going out of cultivation, independently of any effect produced by the poor-rates.

5454. Why do you think that the failure of the crops diminishes the tendency to cultivate the land in the next year; on what ground, in your judgment, does the failure of the crops in 1848 diminish the cultivation of the land in 1849?
The want of confidence in the people of obtaining a crop after such a failure; if a field were to be cultivated for one, two or three years, and each year the crop was found to fail, I should think it would destroy confidence, and check cultivation.

5455. Would not that rather lead to the supposition that the crop which failed ought not to be cultivated, than to the general conclusion that because one crop had failed, no other crop ought to be cultivated?
That ought to be the conclusion, certainly; but the failure of a crop constituting the chief food of a people must always be attended with such an amount of distress as would be certain to lessen, if not entirely to prostrate, the energies of the people.

5456. The Committee are indebted to you for a work of great usefulness, with respect to the improvement of Irish agriculture; does not the failure of the potato crop in this year afford very peculiar facilities, if there be no disturbing causes to prevent it, for cultivating that very field in which the manure still exists, and which is capable of being brought under the plough next year?
Certainly it does.

5457. If, notwithstanding those causes which would rather tend to increase the area of cultivation, the Committee have it distinctly in evidence that acres by thousands and tens of thousands are lying waste (not "waste lands," as they are called, but profitable acres), and that this has been concurrent with a great increase of the rate, and an accumulation of debt for rate upon those very lands, to what sources do you attribute the non-cultivation of those properties?
No doubt the increase of the rate must have been one cause, and possibly an increasing cause, for if the land is going out of cultivation in the way described, it will necessarily cause an increase of the rate upon the land that is still in cultivation.

5458. Then the tendency would be not only to prevent the cultivation of those lands which are now waste, but, by reason of the increased charge upon those

those lands which are not yet waste, to make them waste likewise, and to throw them out of cultivation?

I presume that state of things must tend very much to discourage the cultivation of the land.

5459. On the question of out-door relief, you were understood to say that your greatest objection to it was, that it had an effect upon the wages of labour, inasmuch as the farmers could take advantage of out-door relief to diminish the rate of wages?

Yes.

5460. Do you consider that a very great objection to the system of giving out-door relief in England?

Certainly; but there are other objections; for by inducing men to depend upon the poor-rates instead of upon their own exertions, it must exercise a very mischievous and demoralizing effect upon the labouring population.

5461. You think that it causes great indifference on the part of the labourer as to obtaining work when he is able to get out-door relief, and that it also tends to demoralize the population?

No doubt of it.

5462. Was not another effect of giving out-door relief in England to pay the rent of the labourer out of the rates?

It was.

5463. When you first recommended the Workhouse system for Ireland, you had not had a long acquaintance with that country?

No, I had not.

5464. But you had visited it?

I visited it twice for the purpose of examining into the condition of the people; I had visited it previously, however, and had seen a good deal of the Irish people.

5465. You subsequently resided there for some time as Commissioner?

Between four and five years.

5466. After you had made the examinations you have mentioned, and after you had acquired the knowledge and experience which you must have acquired during your residence in that country, was it your deliberate opinion that the pauperism of Ireland could be permanently relieved by the Workhouse system with 130 Workhouses throughout all Ireland, without any extension of out-door relief?

I saw no reason to doubt that it might. With respect to the number of Workhouses, there were only 130 originally, but I always contemplated that four or five in addition would have afterwards to be provided. Some districts were not at first prepared for Workhouses, not having the machinery requisite for managing them. In the barony of Erris, for instance, we should have had a Workhouse, but we could not find the requisite number of persons eligible for Guardians. I had, however, no reason to doubt that by means of the Workhouses originally erected, an adequate amount of relief might be afforded to the destitution of Ireland; and the houses were so planned as to admit of enlargement to about one-third of their original capacity, without disturbing the general economy of the establishment.

5467. Up to the last moment of your remaining in that country?

Yes, my answer applies to that period.

5468. Did you ever, at any period of your Poor Law experience, contemplate the possibility of relieving the whole of the pauperism of England without any out-door relief?

There was a very strong feeling throughout England, at the time the Poor Law Amendment Act was passed, that the relief of the poor should be limited to the Workhouse, and I participated in that feeling.

5469. That was in 1834?

It was.

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5470. Is it within your knowledge that the original draft of the amended English Poor Law Bill was in that form?

I believe that was the original intention; I have no positive knowledge of its being so, but I have no reason to doubt it.

5471. Subsequently to the establishment of that system, can you give the Committee any general idea of the proportion in numbers, say in the year 1842, when you left Ireland, of persons receiving relief in England in the Workhouses and out of the Workhouses?

I can only speak in round numbers; I think there were about 200,000 in-door poor, and between 1,100,000 and 1,200,000 out-door poor.

5472. Not one quarter of the paupers were relieved within the Workhouses?

Yes.

5473. If that was your experience of a law, of which the original notion had been, as it had been the original notion of the Irish Poor Law, that the relief should be confined entirely to the Workhouses, can you give the Committee the grounds of your belief in 1842, that the Workhouse system could be permanently maintained in Ireland, and that the pauperism of Ireland could be permanently and effectually relieved without going to the out-door system; can you state any instance in which any comparable extent of pauperism has been effectually relieved in any country by the Workhouse system alone?

My reason for thinking that the Workhouse might be relied upon without resorting to out-door relief in Ireland was, that out-door relief had never prevailed there. In England out-door relief had, for a long series of years, been the rule, and in-door relief had been the exception; the Workhouse test was altogether of modern introduction. The first Workhouse organized in England, on the true Workhouse principle (I say it with some pride), was organized by myself in 1819. Then it was that the Workhouse was first applied as a test of destitution, as well as a medium of relief, in the place where I resided; it has grown up since and spread throughout the country, but it can only be regarded as a modern invention. My reason for believing that relief in the Workhouse would be sufficient in Ireland was, as I have just stated, that out-door relief had never prevailed there. During the first four or five years after the passing of the English Poor Law Amendment Act we worked as firmly as we could towards the reduction of out-door relief, and we did succeed in reducing it to a considerable extent.

5474. The result was, that in 1842 not one quarter of the relief afforded in England was confined to the Workhouses?

Yes; but it had been made a boast, even in Parliament, that the amended Poor Law was so exceedingly humane, that whilst only 220,000 were relieved in the Workhouse, 1,200,000 were relieved out of the house. This was made a matter of praise, and the new system was defended on this ground. After this, all that the Poor Law Executive could do was to struggle against the extension of out-door relief, and this they have never failed in doing, and, on the whole, I think, with success.

5475. Had you reason to think that the public mind in Ireland was so differently constituted, and that the pauperism of the country was of such a mitigated character, that you could, under all circumstances, practically continue to give effectual relief to that pauperism, without the extension of the law beyond the Workhouse test?

I believed it then, and I believe it now; had it not been for the great calamity with which Ireland has been visited, I believe that the Workhouse test would exist there in its purity to the present moment, and that it would work effectually for all parties.

5476. Do you mean by "calamity" the failure of the potato crops?

I do.

5477. Are you aware of any twenty years in Ireland without a failure in some parts, to a great extent, of the potato crop?

Yes, but nothing like what has occurred within the last three or four years.

5478. Have you any recollection of the famine of 1822?

No, not in 1822, but there were periods of partial scarcity during the time I was in Ireland; on two occasions I had to assist in the administration of funds supplied

supplied by Government in aid of certain districts in the West of Ireland, where distress prevailed to a great extent; but this was done in a way to excite the least possible attention.

5479. Was 1839 one of those years?
One thousand eight hundred and thirty-nine was one, and 1841 was, I believe, the other.

5480. Those were very mild cases compared with the case of 1822, were they not?
The case of 1822 I was not acquainted with.

5481. Were not they mild compared with the distress in the same districts in 1832?
In 1832 I was not in Ireland.

5482. You are aware that in 1822 there was no relief by law, either in-door or out-door relief?
There was not.

5483. Do you believe that relief was effectually given in 1839 in all those distressed districts, and that there was no undue suffering from pressure?
I cannot say that: there was a great deal of suffering, but relief was given to the major part of the extreme cases; of course there must have been great suffering.

5484. Are the Committee to understand that it is your opinion now, that if henceforward the earth should return to its former state of fertility, it would be practicable to revert to the Workhouse test, to stop out-door relief, and permanently and effectually to relieve the pauperism of Ireland from the resources of Ireland by the other system alone?
I see no reason why it should not be done.

5485. Without anything but in-door relief?
Yes; I think it may be done, notwithstanding that the events of the last four years have, as I conceive,—(I am only reasoning from what I hear, for I have not been in Ireland,)—notwithstanding that the events of the last four years must, I think, have tended greatly to lower and demoralize the condition of the people; but until the people are restored to a higher feeling of self-reliance than they now possess, even after the earth shall have resumed its fertility, there will, I fear, be great difficulties to contend with; and it will be in vain to expect that such a result, as the question contemplates, can be at once effected.

5486. You have stated to the Committee that by a Return that was made to Parliament, it appeared that only 220,000 persons were relieved within the Workhouse, when above a million of persons were relieved out of the Workhouse, in England. Be so good as to state to the Committee the description of people of which that million consisted; were they able-bodied, or not?
A small portion were able-bodied.

5487. And the 220,000; of what description were they generally?
A considerable proportion of those were able-bodied.

5488. Is it your opinion, from your knowledge of the practice of the English law, that in a great majority of the Unions there was no out-door relief at that time to the able-bodied poor, except in cases of sickness?
In a great majority, certainly, that was the case.

5489. In how many Unions was the prohibitory order against it in force?
I cannot state the precise number; but in the majority of the Unions.

5490. In the majority of the Unions the prohibitory order had been issued, prohibiting out-door relief to the able-bodied?
Except with the sanction of the Commissioners; and the sanction of the Commissioners was given only on certain conditions,—that labour was to be applied as a test.

5491. Is it not the law now that able-bodied paupers cannot receive out-door relief except under an express order of the Commissioners?
Certainly it is.

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5492. That is the practice as well as the law?
Yes.

5493. You alluded to the great distress which took place in Ireland in the year 1839 in consequence of the failure of the potato crop, and you stated that at that time you did not consider it expedient to grant out-door relief; but that so great has been the distress in consequence of the constant famines during the last two or three years, that you think it was difficult, if not impossible, to resist such a description of relief. Were there any other causes in 1839 which enabled the small farmers in Ireland to maintain themselves, notwithstanding the failure of the potato crop, which did not exist in the year 1848, and which enabled the farmers to pay the rates in 1839 with more facility than they could in the year 1848; for example, was the wheat-crop in 1839 as deficient as in 1848?
I do not know.

5494. Were the prices in 1839 remunerative to agriculturists generally, or not?
I presume they were; but I have no precise knowledge upon that point.

5495. Your experience does not incline you to think that the Legislature of this country would ever have consented to the entire abolition of out-door relief in England?
I do not think it would.

5496. Is there any one Union in England where out-door relief is not administered to some class or other?
I believe not.

5497. Would you wish absolutely to prohibit the extension of out-door relief in England to all classes?
I feel less strong on that point than heretofore, and am not now prepared to go to that extent.

5498. In that respect you have modified your former opinion?
Yes.

5499. When you adverted to the abuses which attended the administration of out-door relief in England, in connexion with the payment of wages, you were understood to refer to the system which prevailed before the introduction of the Poor Law Amendment Act?
I did.

5500. You did not mean to say that a well-guarded system of out-door relief in Ireland, to certain classes, would necessarily involve those abuses which prevailed in England when the payment of wages was a main part of out-door relief?
Certainly not. I endeavoured to guard myself by saying that I thought the creation of a machinery in Ireland for superintending the administration of the Poor Law, similar to the machinery which exists in England, would prevent the occurrence of abuses there, as it is now preventing the recurrence of abuses here. The abuse from out-door relief at this time is comparatively small in England.

5501. Then you would not despair of establishing, under proper checks and guards, a safe system of out-door relief in Ireland?
I would rather look to out-door relief in Ireland as the exception, in the way in which I understand it to be provided for in the Extension Act; that is, that under certain circumstances, and with certain guards, the Union authorities should be permitted to deal with an emergency, if it occurs, by affording out-door relief under the pressure of that emergency; that, I think, is the provision of the Extension Act, which is purely permissive, as I apprehend. I refer particularly to the able-bodied.

5502. Without pinning you down to details, you do not object to the principle which you understand to be embodied in the Extension Bill?
Certainly not. It appears to me, looking at the circumstances under which that

that Act was passed, to have been drawn with great care; and all the guards that could be introduced, seem to me to have been introduced in it.

5503. You do not consider that the scarcity which prevailed in 1839 can be taken at all as an accurate measure of the scarcity which has prevailed during the last three years?

I think not.

5504. After the experience you have had of the failures of the crops in Ireland the last two years, if you were now framing a Poor Law Bill for Ireland, would you engraft upon it, as a permanent measure, the law which is called the Extension Bill?

Without fixing myself to every point of that measure, I should say, generally, that my judgment is in accordance with the provisions of the law as it now stands.

5505. Then the Committee are to understand that, with your present experience, you would, if you were framing a Bill now for Ireland, make part of that Bill the present extension?

I think, essentially, I should. There is, however, a great difference between carrying on a system that has been established, and introducing one entirely new. I can hardly contemplate that it would be safe to commence with out-door relief in Ireland, in however guarded a shape; but before the present out-door relief was established, the previous system had been in operation for some years; the Workhouses were built; the Union machinery was created, and they were enabled to deal with the application of out-door relief, as a part of an already organized system. The Union authorities would not have been able so to deal with it at the outset.

5506. The question is this: supposing there were no Poor Law in Ireland, and you were now called upon to frame a Poor Law for Ireland, would you make it such as the law now is, with the Extension Bill, or would you apply the Bill which you recommended yourself?

I think, in that case, I should not frame the law as it stands at present. I should begin as we began at first, taking the Workhouse as our security. You can readily extend, if you find it necessary; but you cannot easily retrace a step once taken. It would, I think, be safer to begin with the Workhouse, although it should be determined afterwards to extend it to out-door relief; or even if it was originally intended to admit of out-door relief, still I say I should begin with the law as it was established in 1838, that is, with the Workhouse, as the sole medium of relief.

5507. Then you would still recommend the limited Bill that you at first proposed, even with the experience which you now have of the evils of three or four years of famine?

I would.

5508. With the knowledge of what has happened in Ireland within the last three years, would it not be a part of your recommendation to provide against such a state of things as has now taken place?

At the time the law was introduced, the occurrence of such a state of things was never contemplated; but on the occurrence of the famine and consequent great distress, I should have advised such an extension, or a similar extension to that which has been made, under the altered circumstances, in order, as far as possible, to preserve the lives of the people; the preservation of human life being, as I conceive, a paramount duty incident to every community.

5509. Would you have done it as part of the permanent law, or would you have applied the extension to the period for which the famine might continue?

If my opinion had been asked with respect to the Extension Act of 1847, which it was not, I think I should have recommended something very similar to that which is therein provided.

5510. Would you have made that a permanent part of the Poor Law, or would you have limited it to the necessity for which it was created?

I think I should put it very much as it is now. The law is permanent, but its

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provisions with respect to out-door relief are only permissive, leaving their application to the discretion of the Boards of Guardians.

5511. You would have made it a permanent law, giving permissive powers, under certain contingencies?
That is exactly what I meant to convey to the Committee.

5512. Do not your own Reports say that the existence of such a permission would bring upon you a pressure which no Government could resist. Is not that recorded in a Report signed by you?
I can only say that I then expressed my convictions on the points; such was my opinion at the time.

5513. Do not you think that if you had that permissive power, the pressure would be so great upon you, that you would always be giving out-door relief in some part or other of Ireland?
I think not. I think, with the local machinery and the central supervision which have been created, those abuses which I should have been afraid to encounter at the outset may be in great measure, if not altogether, prevented. All those paragraphs which have been read from my Reports had reference to the introduction of the Poor Law; but after five or six years, when the machinery, both local and central, is in effective operation, the case is altered, and there would be better means of dealing with the difficulties which might arise.

5514. You were asked just now, whether if no Poor Law existed in Ireland, you would do such and such a thing; did you understand the question to apply to a case in which no Poor Law had ever existed, or to a case in which a Poor Law having existed had been repealed?
My answer was with reference to a state of things in which no Poor Law had existed.

5515. Could you approve of out-door relief to the able-bodied poor in Ireland, if it were practicable to offer relief within the Union Workhouse?
No, I could not.

5516. Your official connexion with Ireland has ceased for many years?
Since the end of 1842.

5517. Therefore you have no practical experience of the operation of the law of 1847?
None whatever.

5518. You are not at all aware of the extent of the abuses that have taken place under the law?
I am not.

5519. You are not at all aware of the extreme difficulty, if not impossibility, of checking abuses under that law?
I have no knowledge of the working of the Poor Law in Ireland during the last four or five years.

5520. And, therefore, you can give no positive opinion to the Committee as to whether the law of 1847 can be carried into effect without the continuance of the present abuses?
I cannot; I so stated at the outset.

5521. You stated that the calamity of famine which has now unfortunately supervened in Ireland, was not contemplated in the framing of the Poor Law?
I did.

5522. Will you have the goodness to reconcile that with your Report, in which the contingency of famine is distinctly stated, and even with the contingency of famine assumed, the question of out-door relief is rejected, as being exposed to serious objections?—[*The First Report, pages* 64–67, *8vo. edition, being shown to the Witness.*]
I remember the paragraph, but I cannot see that there is any contradiction between what is stated there and what I have now stated.

5523. You having now stated, that at the time of the passing of the Irish Poor Law Act, the contingency of famine was not in contemplation; will you state

state whether the question was not discussed in your Report, subject to the assumption of famine, and whether the proposition of out-door relief was not, even in respect of the case of famine, rejected?

Yes, it was, certainly; but all those Reports had reference to the introduction and establishment of the law. I never contemplated the occurrence of the state of things which we have seen in the last four years.

5524. You remember the introduction of the Irish Poor Law Bill; do you remember that a proposition was made in the House of Commons by Mr. Smith O'Brien, in the progress of the Bill, for introducing clauses with respect to out-door relief?

I do not distinctly remember that circumstance.

5525. Did you attend those debates?

Yes, I believe, every one.

5526. Do you remember this being stated in opposition to the clause so proposed: "I give my most direct opposition to this proposition, thinking, as I do, that the worst clauses in the English Poor Law Act, and those which tend most to mar its beneficial progress, are those that extend the right of out-door relief. If Parliament once consents to open the door to out-door relief in Ireland, there would hardly be a family which would not take advantage of it, and throw themselves on the fund." (Hansard's Parliamentary Debates, vol. 91, page 434.) Does that, more or less, express the opinions which you entertained at the time?

I know that that would have been very nearly my opinion at the time; I should have given a similar opinion if I had been asked, not in language so good, but probably as strong.

5527. Your First Report was made in 1836?

It was drawn in 1836.

5528. Your Second Report was made in the subsequent year, after further examination?

Yes.

5529. Your Third Report, after visiting the Continent, which concludes wit the adoption of all your preceding opinions, was made in the subsequent year, how long were you in Ireland after that?

Between four and five years.

5530. During the three years anterior, when you were charged with the grave responsibility of considering the whole of these questions, and during which years you were charged with the practical administration of the law in Ireland, your opinion remained unaltered with respect to out-door relief?

It did.

5531. Therefore the opinion which you have now expressed upon the subject has supervened subsequently to all those transactions, and after you had quitted the administration of the Poor Law in Ireland?

Yes, certainly.

5532. With reference to the quotation which has been read to you, at the time of the introduction into Parliament of the measure for establishing the Poor Law in Ireland, were not you, and the Government whose confidence you possessed, strongly impressed with the opinion, that upon the first introduction of the measure, it would not be expedient to add to the risk which the introduction of any such measure must necessarily carry with it, by embodying in that measure an extension to out-door relief?

That was my opinion, and I think it was the opinion of the Government.

5533. Do you mean to say that it was the opinion of any one of the members of the Government that were really responsible for the introduction of that Bill, that under the colour of introducing one measure, they intended to introduce another, and that having in future contemplation out-door relief, the persons charged with the Bill yet resisted the introduction of such a measure, as inconsistent with the interests of Ireland?

For my own part I can only say that I never contemplated the introduction of out-door relief at that time.

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5534. And you had no knowledge that such a measure was in the contemplation of any member of the Government?
I had not.

5535. Nor was there any such intimation ever conveyed to you by any member of the Government?
Certainly not.

5536. Nor, as far as you know, was any such intention ever entertained?
Not to my knowledge.

5537. At that period, with your experience, did you not think it possible that there might be severe famines in Ireland?
I never contemplated the occurrence of anything like what we have been passing through during the last three or four years. That there might be occasional scarcities in particular districts, I supposed likely; and I thought that these might be dealt with, and that they would be dealt with, under the ordinary operation of the Poor Law; but I never contemplated the occurrence of anything like the present emergencies.

5538. Then at the time when you proposed that Bill you firmly intended that it should be the permanent and unaltered law of the country?
I did so, most certainly.

5539. And you believe that was the intention of the Government who brought it forward, from your communication with them?
I believe such was the intention of the Government also; and I further believe that it would have been the continued and permanent law, but for the events which have recently occurred in Ireland.

5540. But still in your First Report which was published upon the subject there are distinct passages contemplating the possibility of scarcity; did not you contemplate that for those periods of scarcity the Workhouse would be sufficient relief?
For all the scarcity which I contemplated, I believed that the Workhouse would be found sufficient.

5541. Speaking of scarcity, at that time had you in your contemplation such scarcities as had occurred at certain intervals upon previous occasions, which were partial or less serious than the present?
Those were the descriptions of scarcity which I contemplated; I knew and had heard of none other.

5542. How did you suppose that those occasional scarcities or famines which you contemplated were to be provided for?
I presumed that, being partial and local, not affecting the whole country, and being of short duration, they would be provided for under the ordinary operation of the Poor Law.

5543. Then you never contemplated the possibility of a general famine in the country?
I never contemplated the occurrence of a general famine, or of the continuous famine under which the country has unhappily been suffering.

5544. You were understood to say, that had it not been for the continuous famine since the year 1845, you cannot suppose that any extension of the original Act would have been called for?
I think it would not have been necessary.

5545. You do not conceive that it would have been necessary?
I think not.

5546. With such an opinion, do not you consider that it was inexpedient to make the extension of that Act permanent, and not temporary?
If a positive right to out-door relief had been given by it, with no limitation as to time and other circumstances, I should say that it would have been a very dangerous step; but, looking at the Act as it stands, merely giving the Guardians permission to relieve, but not giving a right to the relief, and with the power of supervision and control which exists, I do not think there is much danger to be apprehended.

5547. You

5547. You were understood to say that you consider that there is a small amount of out-door relief given in England at this moment; can you state, in round numbers, the whole number of persons receiving out-door relief in England at this moment?
About 1,200,000.

5548. How many are there in the Workhouses?
In round numbers about 250,000.

5549. You consider that a small amount of out-door relief in England?
I do not say so; but it should be remembered that up to the time of the Poor Law Amendment Act, the whole of the relief given in England was out-door relief, with very trifling exceptions, and that in-door relief is, as I have before stated, a matter of modern introduction altogether.

5550. But, although you consider that a number exceeding 1,200,000 persons receiving out-door relief is a small number, as compared with the population of England, you still consider that the whole of the pauperism of Ireland might, under ordinary circumstances, be relieved without any out-door relief at all?
I think that it might be so, under ordinary circumstances.

5551. Will you then explain how it is that the pauperism of Ireland is so much less than the pauperism of England, that, in your opinion, although the Workhouses in Ireland do not hold one-half the number which you have stated to be at present in the English Workhouses, the whole of the pauperism of Ireland could be relieved without any out-door relief, while the Workhouses which receive 300,000 cannot meet the pauperism of England; how is it that the pauperism of Ireland is considered by you to be so much less than the pauperism of England under what you call ordinary circumstances?
I can give a reason which is perfectly satisfactory to myself; whether it will be so to your Lordships I do not know. The people of England for a long series of years have been accustomed to out-door relief; in many cases, and for long periods, to lavish out-door relief; and we all know that when a people have become accustomed to certain habits, and that their modes of living are framed in accordance with those habits, it requires a length of time and long endeavours to effect any material change. The habits of the people of England have thus been accustomed to out-door relief, and hence its present amount in this country; but the people of Ireland have never been so accustomed, and, therefore, under ordinary circumstances, will not look for or require it.

5552. If it appears, then, that in a Union in Ireland, the Westport Union, at this moment there are a little more than 14,000 persons receiving out-door relief, and upwards of 1,700 receiving in-door relief, the proportion is not very enormously different between the in and out-door pauperism in that Union at the present moment, and the in-door and out-door pauperism of England?
No, it is not.

5553. Therefore, if the country in which that Union is situated were in the same condition as to wealth, compared to the population that England is in, that Union might continue its relief to the poor without receiving extraneous aid?
It might.

5554. The property and population, then, of Ireland must be extremely differently circumstanced from those of England, when in the one case that amount of pauperism causes the insolvency of Unions in Ireland, which is considered what may be termed a normal condition in England?
True, there is a difference; I presume the circumstance which led to so large a number receiving out-door relief in the Westport Union has been the failure of the crops, which it may be hoped is a temporary evil.

5555. Are you acquainted with any district in England which bears any analogy to the Union of Glenties in Ireland in this respect, namely, where a population of 43,000 persons are living upon an area valued at 16,000*l.*, and therefore representing only 7*s.* 6*d.* per head upon the whole population?
I believe there is no parallel case in England.

5556. Or anything approaching to it?
I believe not.

5557. When you were in Ireland making your inquiries, had you not communications with gentlemen who are connected with the administration of the Mendicity Society in Dublin?
Yes.

5558. Had not they very considerable experience in the conduct of that, which you will agree was a well-managed establishment upon the whole?
Upon the whole, I think it was; I paid a great deal of attention to its management, and was frequently there.

5559. Do you remember who the Secretaries were at that time?
One was Mr. Burke; I forget the name of the other.

5560. Do you remember receiving a letter from them, on the occasion of your inquiries, in these terms: "Some persons, and certainly men of some experience and sagacity, are desirous of having introduced into the Bill some discretionary authority of giving out-door relief; but it is at the same time greatly to be feared that out-door relief would soon become the rule, and Workhouse relief the exception; and that this plan would soon degenerate into the allowance system, in a country where the wages of labour are in many parts so very low; the Union would soon come to pay half, and the employers the other half"?
I recollect having received such a communication.

5561. Did you not attach sufficient weight to that opinion so expressed to you, based upon the experience of the poor which those gentlemen had had, to make it a subject of communication in your Report, and to ground upon it, to a certain extent, the recommendation which you made?
I did.

5562. You know that the provisions of the Extension Act restrict the relief to be given to the able-bodied poor out of the house to food; are you aware, practically, what amount and description of food has been administered as relief to the out-door paupers?
I am not.

5563. If you were told that it did not amount to more than a pound per day of Indian meal, should you say that that could be called "relief to the able-bodied on terms more eligible than regular industry"?
I should think not, under ordinary circumstances.

5564. Do you think that the amount or description of relief so given would prevent any able-bodied man from seeking employment at wages if he could obtain it?
I think not.

5565. Supposing a family in Ireland, averaging five or six in number, receive daily a pound of Indian meal for each adult, and half a pound for each of the younger members of the family, do you not think that, taking into account the habits of the Irish people, it would withdraw them from labour, at the low wages of the country, to accept of gratuitous relief?
There might be some danger of that, certainly; the habits of living of the Irish people being so low, it is difficult to regulate the description and quantity of food which may be given as relief, so as to avoid the evil adverted to.

5566. Do you think that the strong language in which the evils of the out-door relief system under the old law in England, under what may be called the parochial system, was denounced, is fairly applicable to out-door relief administered under the Extension Act in Ireland?
I think not, the circumstances being, I apprehend, totally dissimilar.

5567. As you know the usual habits of the labouring classes in Ireland, you are aware that they have no very great inclination, with the exception of the North of Ireland, to be very industrious?
They are not so industrious as I could wish them to be.

5568. You know, also, they are easily satisfied with a very small pittance for their support?

Yes, they are too easily satisfied in that respect.

5569. Do you not think that for those two reasons, even a very moderate supply of food daily to them would have the effect of deterring them from offering to engage in daily labour?

I presume the Guardians, who have the power of administering the relief, will take care that it is given only to those who are unavoidably in a state of destitution.

5570. You are aware of the extent of the Unions in Ireland, and the great population contained within those Unions; do you think that the Guardians usually have it in their power to know the circumstances connected with the parties receiving out-door relief?

I think they may, with the assistance of the Union officers.

5571. In your Reports there is a very distinct and important opinion expressed on the subject of emigration as applicable to particular districts of Ireland, where the population is, in your judgment, in excess; do you adhere to those opinions which you then deliberately expressed?

I do.

5572. Taking those parts of Ireland where the population is in excess, do you think it will be possible to introduce such improved agriculture as will support the people upon corn, their numbers having been created by living upon potatoes, without diminishing their numbers?

I think not; I could not hope to effect such improvement in cultivation as would enable the same number of persons to obtain subsistence from corn crops as is obtained from potato culture.

5573. You stated in your Second Report, that in certain parts of the country you believe "there is an actual excess of population beyond the existing means of employment, and wherever this excess exists it must operate to lower the price of labour, and to increase the competition for land, and thus to force down the mode of living to a lower level, and to depress the whole population in the moral and social scale. These are universally admitted to be the inevitable consequences of an excess of population in any district." Does that represent, in your judgment, at the present moment, a fair view of the case of the over-populated districts of Ireland?

I think it does.

5574. Do you conceive that if no colonial emigration takes place from Ireland, the number of Irish emigrants into England will be increased?

I have no doubt it will be increased; they will not starve at home whilst this country is open to them.

5575. And that the disproportion in the amount of wages and the remuneration for labour between the two countries is the temptation that brings the Irish to this country?

No doubt these operate as inducements.

5576. You have had considerable English experience; do you conceive that that migration of Irish labour into this country, if it assumes the character of the permanent settlement of Irish labourers here, distinguishable from the Irish harvesters coming and returning, is productive of mischief in this country?

It is productive of serious mischief in various ways.

5577. Is that the result of your experience of the consequences of the settlement of the Irish permanently in the different districts in England?

It is.

5578. Does it tend to lower wages, and ultimately to force the habits of the labouring classes in England to the lower level of the Irish labourers?

That is the tendency, undoubtedly.

5579. Do you see any more effective remedy to prevent such an evil than a well-administered system of emigration from Ireland?

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I do not know any other means that will be so immediate or so effective. At the same time it must not be overlooked that emigration on an extended scale is beset with difficulties; there are great difficulties in so conducting it as to avoid the infliction of evils as great or greater than those for which it is sought to escape from.

5580. You are aware of the different incidents of the Poor Law taxation in the two countries; in England who pays the rate?
The occupier.

5581. In Ireland who pays the rate with respect to tenements below 4*l.*?
The owner.

5582. And in relation to tenements above 4*l.*?
The owner and the occupier pay a proportionate share; it is intended that each should pay one-half, and they would do so if the valuation and the rent coincided in amount.

5583. If it should be the fact, as has been suggested by some witnesses, and proved by others, that the valuations are unnaturally forced down and depressed in Ireland, with the consequence, if not with the intention, of increasing the number of exempted 4*l.* tenements, and increasing the amount of poundage which is paid by the landlord, so that ultimately the rate should be altogether payable by the owner of the land, and that the occupier of the land should be excepted from it, what do you think will be the consequence of that system as to the administration of the Poor Law, both in the exercise of discrimination as to the objects to be relieved, and the amount of relief given?
It might be possible, no doubt, to force the valuation down so low as to throw by far the largest portion of the rate upon the landlord; but the Poor Law Commissioners have the power of preventing that being done.

5584. But the question is hypothetical; it is supposing that state of things to exist; what then do you think would be the effect upon the administration of the Poor Law?
It would, no doubt, be very mischievous.

5585. Supposing that in a parish in England, or in a large Union containing a number of parishes, the rates were to be paid almost exclusively by the owners of land, and that the occupiers not being owners were to be exempt, would you, as connected with the central Poor Law administration, feel a reliance upon the administration of the law in England in those Unions?
I should in such case not have the same reliance upon the due administration of the law as I have at present.

5586. Do you think it would be practicable?
It would under such circumstances be very difficult to secure a fair and impartial administration of a law; so difficult that I should almost despair of it, without far greater powers of supervision and control than at present exist.

5587. Do you not think it would have a tendency to induce disunion between class and class, namely, between the owners who were the payers, and the occupiers who might be the administrators or the recipients of the relief?
No doubt it would.

5588. Have you any doubt that disunion between class and class is one of the most pressing social dangers that exist in Ireland?
I have no doubt that it is.

5589. In your original proposition to divide the rate between the occupier and the landlord, did you or did you not contemplate that it would be in general pretty equally divided?
I considered that it would be pretty equally divided, the valuations being based upon the fair letting value of the properties rated.

5590. If you found upon experience that there was an inclination among the Guardians of the various Unions to have a reduced valuation with the view of increasing the proportion upon the landlord in Ireland, should you or should you not consider that an abuse of the system?

Certainly,

Certainly, I should consider it a great abuse; it was attempted in a few cases before I left Ireland, but we had power enough to interfere and correct it.

5591. What should you think of a provision, as an amendment of the law, which would limit, under all circumstances, the power of the occupier to deduct more than one-half of the rate from the proprietor?

All depends upon the fairness of the valuation; if the property is valued fairly, the law providing that one-half the amount levied under the valuation should be paid by the tenant, and the other half by the landlord, the inequality alluded to could not exist. If the valuation is not fairly made, then the law gives certain powers to the Commissioners to interfere and order a new valuation. Now, looking at the whole of the Irish valuations at the time I left, in 1842, I am satisfied that the valuations in Ireland, taken as a whole, were then more equable and more fair than the valuations in England. That the Irish valuations were not perfect, I admit, and in some cases they were far from what they ought to be; but, looking at them as a whole, the valuation was better in Ireland and more equable than in England.

5592. Would not the amendment suggested in the last question, in that particular provision, rectify the evil at once?

It does not appear to me to be necessary; the first object is to establish a correct valuation; that correct valuation once established, the portions respectively paid by the owner and the occupier must be about equal.

5593. Do you see any objection to such alteration of the law as has been suggested?

I should hardly consider it an alteration.

5594. Do you see any objection to a provision to this effect, that under no circumstances should the occupier be permitted to deduct from his payment to the proprietor more than one-half the amount of the rate which he had paid?

In framing those rating clauses, many circumstances were taken into account, the whole of which I do not now, on the instant, recollect; but one reason for making it a poundage rate was, that those landlords who exacted the highest rents should pay a larger proportion of the rate than those landlords who exacted smaller rents; some lands are let at easy rents, others at higher or rack-rents; but by adopting the poundage-rate the landlord who exacted the higher or the rack-rent, would have to pay a larger proportion than the landlord who exacted a smaller or an easy rent; that was the view taken at the time. The question was very much canvassed in the House of Commons, more, I think, than any other part of the Bill, and it was deliberately determined that it should be a poundage-rate according to the valuation. For my own part, I should see no objection, if it would simplify the working of the measure, to such an alteration made as is proposed in the question.

5595. You stated that there is great inequality in the valuations in England; do you imagine that it would be possible in England, with justice, to raise a national rate of so much in the pound upon the existing valuations, considering that there are those great inequalities between different districts?

I believe I did not state that there were great inequalities in England. I said that the valuations, as I left them in Ireland, were, upon the whole, more equable than the valuations in England. I thought so then, and I think so still; the valuations in both countries are, however, in constant process of correction.

5596. Taking the valuations such as they are in England now, would a uniform poundage-rate be fair and just, as between one district and another?

Of course it would not be fair if there was any inequality; the unfairness would be in proportion to the amount of the inequality.

5597. Are not you aware, also, that it is very common that there is one valuation for the county rate which is over a large district, and totally different valuations for the poor-rate in England?

I am quite aware of that.

5598. The county rate running over the county, and the other rate only running over the township or the parish?

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Yes; I think it would be a great advantage if one uniform system of valuation was established throughout the country.

5599. And therefore in England no general rate can be raised, or has been raised, without the introduction of a uniform valuation for the purpose; is not that your opinion and your experience?

It would be desirable certainly to have one uniform valuation; the principle established in England for the Poor Law valuations is the fair letting value, all expense deducted; and that is the principle in Ireland.

5600. But unless that principle is fairly carried out, and every property is valued at its clear letting value, the principle is virtually abandoned?

No doubt it is.

5601. Has not that been the case in Ireland in a great number of instances?

I should say that the departures from that principle were the exceptions when I left Ireland; what is the case now I do not know. The valuations were not perfect then, but, upon the whole, I considered the valuations fairly made; there was a great deal of pains taken to get them fair, and in the majority of instances they were fair; in a few instances they were not.

5602. You think that they were generally more uniform than they are in England?

Yes, generally more uniform than they are in England.

5603. Then, in fact, if any exertion has been made in Ireland by the Guardians of the various Unions, to cause an alteration or diminution in the valuation, you are of opinion that *pro tanto* that has been an evil?

If it has been unfairly done, it no doubt is so.

5604. If you consider that when you were in the country the valuations were upon the whole fairly made, does not it follow that if they have been reduced in any instances, since or generally, it has been so far an injury or a deviation from a uniform valuation?

Yes, unless such reduction was really a correction; they were not perfect, and even if they had been, they cannot continue perfect; the value of property is constantly changing, and the valuations require frequent correction.

5605. If you had reason to believe that the valuation was changed for the purpose of throwing a greater weight of rating upon the proprietors, should not you think that that was an injury as regards the general rating of the country?

Certainly, it would be an injury and an injustice.

5606. You said that the Poor Law Commissioners had the power of remedying that injustice on application being made to them, by causing a revision of the valuation?

They have the power of ordering a revision of the valuation.

5607. Of course, the object which dictated the manner in which the clauses were drawn up, respecting the deduction to be made by the tenant from the landlord, was to equalize, in some measure, the effects of too high or too low a rent?

That was the object.

5608. But did it answer its object?

I think, upon the whole, it did; it was a large measure to introduce; a large machine that was set in motion, and, upon the whole, I think it worked fairly, though there were, as I have already stated, a few exceptions.

5609. If the valuations were conducted uniformly, it would be an equitable arrangement?

It would be so, in my judgment.

5610. In England the poor-rate is paid by the occupier?

It is.

5611. Is it not your opinion that the circumstance of the occupier being solely liable for the rate very much facilitates the good administration of the law?

It enlists a greater amount of interest in the due administration of the law.

5612. Do you see any objection to alter the law in Ireland to this extent, that in any future lease or agreement it should be agreed upon between the parties that the whole of the rate should be levied upon the occupier?

Practically,

Practically, the rate is always paid by the owner of the land; the rate must come out of the rent; it is a charge upon the land; and whether it is paid entirely by the occupier, or entirely by the owner, looking at it as a matter of principle, I consider it is immaterial; the effect of the charge upon the net proceeds of the property must be the same, and it is to the net proceeds of the property that the landlord looks for his rent. But, as regards the practical working of the Poor Law, by calling upon the tenant to pay the rate instead of the landlord, as in England, you have a larger number of persons immediately and directly interested in the well working of the law than if the owner paid the rate entirely. In Ireland the occupier pays one-half the rate, or he ought to pay one-half, and the owner the other half; therefore the Irish tenant has only half as much direct interest in the correct administration of the Poor Law as the English tenant has; that is the only difference I see between the mode of rating in the two countries.

5613. Do not the Boards of Guardians in Ireland consist chiefly of the tenantry of the country?

I think they do, very generally.

5614. Do not you conceive that if those tenantry were made wholly liable for the rate, that that must lead to a more economical administration of the law?

In principle, I should say, yes; but whether it would be practicable to make the change, I am not sure.

5615. They would have a much greater interest in the economical administration of the law, would they not?

They would certainly have a greater interest.

5616. Do you see, therefore, any objection that in any future agreement or lease it should be left to the landlord and tenant to agree that the tenant should be liable for the whole of the rate?

Let me, in the first place, say, that a question of this kind may involve many considerations which it will require time to make up one's mind upon. In principle, and at the first glance, I should say, that there would be no objection to your Lordship's proposition. But whether, having regard to the peculiar circumstances of Ireland, there may not be practical objections, I am not prepared at this moment to say. If there was a *bonâ fide* action on both sides, on the part of the landlord and on the part of the tenant, I think, as far as I can at present see, that there would be no objection to such an arrangement.

5617. When you introduced the English system of Poor Law into Ireland, will you state to the Committee why you did not introduce the same system of liability that exists in England?

Upon the introduction of the Poor Law into Ireland, the rate for relief of the poor was an entirely new charge, and it would have been extremely unjust to all the leaseholders in Ireland to have thrown the entire burthen upon them, it being an extra charge, over and above the rent which they had agreed to pay to the landlord. There was another reason, however, which had considerable weight with me, and I believe also with the Government. It was thought that it would have the effect of identifying the interests, and bringing more into harmony the relationship between the landlord and the tenant, by their being subjected to a common charge. I believe that feeling operated with some members of the Government, as it did to a considerable extent with myself; and with fair action on all sides, I think that would have been the effect Then there was another consideration; there are in Ireland, more especially in the West of Ireland, a vast number of poor tenantry, occupying small holdings, and it would have been felt by them as a great hardship to exempt the landlords altogether from a charge to which these poor tenants were subjected. The law would have had a much less gracious character, if the landlords had been exempted; and it would, I think, have been the means of raising greater difficulties in the way of its introduction than we actually found, and we did find some difficulties as it was.

5618. Had you not also another object which was stronger than any of these, in making the absentee proprietors, who otherwise, not holding the land themselves, would have paid nothing, contribute a large portion of that support?

That was another consideration it is true, but in answering questions of this kind, on the instant, one unavoidably omits many considerations which operated at the time.

 5619. Have

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5619. Have you not stated before, that your opinion in the commencement was, no matter whether the rate was to be paid by the tenant, by the occupier, or by the landlord, it must ultimately come out of the landlord's pocket?
Yes, I have so stated.

5620. If that was the case, it must then have come ultimately out of the absentee proprietor's pocket?
Yes, if there was no lease; if the tenant's engagement was from year to year only, such would be the case; but a good deal of the land in Ireland is held by lease, or for terms of years, at fixed rents, and in such cases the landlord, whether resident or non-resident, would escape the charge, if the tenant were made solely liable for the rate.

5621. Of course that refers to a former answer which you gave, that where leases, formal contracts, and agreements were entered into, it would not be fair that the occupier should be bound to bear the whole of the expense; but to the case that I put to you, which was with regard to any future lease being granted, where the tenant agrees with his landlord that he shall in future pay the rate, surely those objections would not apply?
No, they would not apply to such a case. The objection that occurs to me against such an arrangement—I mean it as a possible objection, and I am speaking in the presence of landlords,—it is this: a landlord might take an unfair advantage of his tenant, on the expiration of his tenancy, by saying, "I will not renew the lease unless you agree to pay the poor-rate;" I mean merely to say that it might be made a lever for raising the rent unduly and unfairly upon the occupier.

5622. Has not the landlord now, when about to grant a lease, the land being out of lease, the power of adding what he considers may be the poor-rate to the amount of the rent that he shall choose to ask?
He has the right to do so, unquestionably.

5623. With respect to the question of the collection of the rate, and the share or proportion to be paid by the landlord and tenant, have you considered what is commonly called the 4*l.* clause?
I have not given it much consideration of late; but it was part of the Irish Poor Law Bill as originally framed.

5624. Have you formed any opinion of what would be the consequence, whether beneficial or otherwise, to the working of the law, if such a clause were extended to England?
Such a practice does prevail now to a considerable extent in many places in England. There are instances in towns where, for tenements under a certain value, the landlord pays the rate instead of the tenant. This is generally effected under the provisions of a Local Act, enabling the parish authorities to compound with the owners of tenements under a certain value; there are numerous instances of the kind.

5625. How is that rate collected?
From the owners.

5626. How is it enforced?
In the event of non-payment, the rate is, I believe, generally leviable on the occupiers, who are authorized to deduct the amount from the rent payable to the owner; and I think the owner may be proceeded against at the option of the parish authorities.

5627. Of course, when we speak of the owners, we mean the owners not being the occupiers,—not being on the premises?
Of course.

5628. Will you state what steps could practically be taken, or would practically be taken, by the Unions, to collect the rates, in case they were not paid upon the first application; can you call to mind any case in which there has been any difficulty?
I am not aware that any difficulty has arisen, or that the question has ever been raised; I have never seen an instance, nor heard of one.

5629. Is

5629. Is it not probable that in the very case to which you have now alluded, the owner has let those tenements upon a stipulation that they shall be free from the rate, and he has found that thereby, on the whole, he augments his own interest?
No doubt of it.

5630. The effect of such an arrangement as that might be wholly different from an enactment of the law?
Yes, it might be different. In my original proposition for the Irish Poor Law, it was proposed to exempt the occupiers of tenements of 5*l.* and under, and to throw the charge of the rate upon the landlord.

5631. Do you refer to the Irish Bill or the English Bill?
The Irish Bill.

5632. A change of a similar nature in the English law has been suggested, has it not?
It has; and with regard to cottages, it would, I think, be a very desirable change.

5633. It is your opinion that it would be desirable?
It would be very desirable, in my opinion.

5634. Cottages rated under what amount?
I am not at present prepared to say; probably 5*l.* or 6*l.* would be the limit.

5635. Without specifying the rate of the valuation, what would be the nature of the cottage; would it be the dwelling of a labourer?
I think you cannot make such a distinction; you must simply have regard to the value of the tenement.

5636. In your mind's eye is that the kind of tenement you mean?
Certainly; the labourer's cottage is the description of tenement I chiefly look to; but I would not exempt any property from rate. The change I wish to make would be to throw the charge for small tenements upon the landlord.

5637. Meaning by a small tenement, in the rural districts, a cottage and small garden?
Yes; the difficulty is in applying the rule to both the country and the town. The exemption at Birmingham is for tenements valued at 9*l.* and under; this for the county districts would be too high.

5638. That exemption is only partial in Birmingham?
It is under a Local Act; there are numerous cases of the kind; many towns are under Local Acts for local purposes.

5639. You mentioned some little time back that the valuations of land in Ireland were, upon the whole, in your opinion, fairly made?
On the whole, I think they were fairly made.

5640. You were in Ireland acting as a Commissioner at the time that those valuations were first made, were you not?
I was.

5641. You must then be perfectly acquainted with the method by which the valuations were first made?
I am.

5642. Are you aware that those valuations were made in the different Unions by persons well skilled in the valuation of land?
Generally speaking they were; not in every case.

5643. Do you say that of your own knowledge?
I speak to the best of my belief.

5644. Who had the appointment of the valuators?
The Boards of Guardians, subject to the approval of the Commissioners.

5645. Are you aware that the Boards of Guardians were able to find persons skilled in the valuation of land in most of the Unions?

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The valuators appointed were all more or less skilled; speaking generally, I considered them competent for the duty; the Guardians for the most part selected the best persons they could find, and reported their selection to the Board in Dublin; and the Board in Dublin, through the assistance of the Commissioners, inquired into the competency of the individuals selected; and I can say, that there was no one circumstance connected with the introduction of the Irish Poor Law to which more attention was paid. Great pains were taken to obtain good and competent valuators. This, I am ready to admit, was not done in every case; perhaps it was impossible; but still, looking at the whole of the valuations in Ireland, I consider them to have been correctly and fairly made.

5646. Are you not aware that there was a great deal of jobbing on the part of the Boards in the appointment of the valuators in the different Unions?
I do not know that there was such jobbing in the matter.

5647. Was there not a great deal of favouritism shown in the appointment of certain friends and connexions of the Guardians?
I am afraid that that is in some degree the case in almost all appointments.

5648. Did you not hear of complaints that certain persons were appointed in certain Unions who were not competent to value lands?
I know that in several cases the persons who were at first selected by the Guardians were not confirmed by the Commissioners.

5649. Did not a subsequent Act of Parliament give to the Poor Law Commissioners themselves the power of appointing persons to value and to revise?
There was a power of that kind given.

5650. That was only a power to revise?
Exactly; but a power to revise is, in fact, a power to value.

5651. Were there not a great number of appeals against the valuations that were made by the first valuators?
Indeed, I think not; I only recollect one case of appeal. There may have been more; but at this moment I only recollect one.

5652. Was there an equal system of valuation kept up between Union and Union?
There were certain discrepancies in the valuations as between Unions. In that respect, the valuations were not quite uniform.

5653. Was there any regular general rule that was adhered to in the valuation of one Union, and carried out in another?
The general rule prescribed, that the fair letting value of property should be taken as the ground of all the valuations, but that rule was more closely adhered to in some Unions than it was in others. It was, however, the rule prescribed to every Union.

5654. Is it not a fact, that some Unions at this moment are not, in consequence of the valuation made, paying much more than half what is paid in other Unions?
I do not know that it is so, and I cannot say that it is not so; but I do not see how such a result could possibly be produced.

5655. You are acquainted with the acreage extent of the Electoral Divisions?
Generally, I am.

5656. What is your opinion with respect to their size; do you think them too large for the purposes of assessment?
I do not think that they are generally too large, although there may be instances in which they are so.

5657. It has been suggested that the operation of the law would be facilitated by individualizing the responsibility?
That is a very large and difficult question; there is a good deal to be said in favour of it, and something also to be said against it. By individualizing the responsibility, you may doubtless insure more attention to the business of the particular district, and perhaps induce greater efforts for the improvement of property within it, which is so far an advantage. The whole of that question was discussed in my Reports, and much fuller and better than I can state it now.

It

It is obvious, however, that by increasing the intensity of individual interest, you increase the inducements to the clearance of estates, and to the ejectment of the small tenantry, which in Ireland, if too hastily and unduly urged forward, would, in my judgment, be a very dangerous course of procedure, looking at the social condition of the country.

5658. Could not such an evil as that be easily corrected by some law of settlement?

I do not see that a law of settlement could correct it; and even if it would, I think that there would be many evils attendant upon the introduction of a law of settlement into Ireland, which would more than counterbalance any benefits that might possibly accrue from it.

5659. Do you think it would be unfair, in case of an estate being cleared of its surplus population, that the Electoral Division to which those paupers belonged should not be liable to maintain them until they had gained some beneficial occupation?

That would be, practically, a law of settlement.

5660. In your opinion, would there be any serious objection to such a settlement?

Indeed, I think there would.

5661. For what reason?

With any law of settlement there must, I apprehend, be a right to relief, and with the right to relief also a power of removal; so that whenever a person in any part of Ireland became chargeable, he would be removed to the place of his settlement. Settlement, right to relief, removal, stand together in the same category, and ought all, in my opinion, to be avoided in Poor Law legislation for Ireland.

5662. If it were limited to persons residing within the Union to which that Electoral Division belonged, would there be any objection?

There would be less objection there, I think, much less. I always regarded the question of settlement in Ireland as one of great danger and great difficulty. We are feeling the ill effects of it in England now.

5663. Is it the fact that in Ireland many landlords have of late years endeavoured to clear their estates of their surplus poor?

I have no knowledge that it is the case.

5664. Was that so when you were in Ireland?

No; it had been previously, I believe; but I did not, when I was there, see that it prevailed to any great extent.

5665. You cannot state to the Committee whether such has been the case for the last two or three years, or not?

I cannot say.

5666. Does any objection occur to your mind to making the district of taxation coterminous with property?

If such importance should be attached to narrowing the area of taxation as to establish it by legislation, it must be borne in mind, that to carry out that principle to its legitimate conclusion, you must go up to estate rating. Every individual property must be rated separately, and be liable separately to maintain the people resident or settled on it; but this would be a matter of much difficulty in practice, independently of all the other serious objections to such a plan.

5667. Is that so in England?

No, it is not.

5668. Do you think that the Poor Law works well in England at present?

I hope it does.

5669. In your opinion, is one great cause of the employment of the people in England the fact, that the persons liable to maintain them are persons rated in the parish to which they belong?

I think that is one cause. It is only one among many others.

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5670. Do you think that it is the principal one?

I think not. I believe the circumstance that chiefly leads to the well-working of the law, and to the employment of the people in England, is, that the amount of population, and the amount of employment, bear a near proportion to each other. I cannot understand any occupier or owner of property continuing, from merely charitable motives, to employ a number of individuals beyond what he actually requires. I can understand that it may be done by particular individuals, and under particular circumstances, for a year or two, or three; but I cannot understand its being done generally, or for a perpetuity; neither do I think it desirable that it should be so done. If you recognize such a practice as imperative upon either owners or occupiers, you must go on with an increasing population within a given area, until only so much produce is raised as will support the persons existing within that area.

5671. Does the state of the law in England in that respect rather tend to check the circulation of labour?

The law of settlement unquestionably does tend to check the free circulation of labour.

5672. Is it not notorious that during the winter in England, in the large Unions throughout the country, there are a great many people employed for the purpose of keeping them off the rates?

I have no doubt that practice does prevail to a considerable extent in many districts; and one of the circumstances that leads to it is, I think, the change that has taken place in agricultural employment of late years. The introduction of machinery and other things have enabled the farmer to perform certain operations with great rapidity, without having recourse to manual labour; for instance, thrashing machines and winnowing machines, by doing rapidly at any time work which used to be performed by the labourers in wet weather and during the winter months, have tended to throw large numbers of our agricultural labourers out of employment during the winter, notwithstanding that the number of labourers is not, on the whole, greater than the district requires.

5673. Do you think that the use of machinery has tended to decrease the employment of the poor?

No, I do not think that it has, as a whole; but at certain periods I think it does.

5674. Is not the fact to which the last question refers attributable to the necessary demand for labour being much greater at one period than at another?

It is. In the olden time to which I can look back, the process of thrashing was carried on during the winter, when there is comparatively little employment in field labour; but now, upon all farms of any size, the thrashing machine is used, and the work is done in a few days with two or three hands, which occupied formerly four or five men for a much longer time, and that, too, at periods when there was less employment of another description.

5675. Are the effects of the law of settlement in England such as to raise doubts in your mind as to whether it would not be expedient to do away with, or modify, that law?

I think it is a subject well deserving of consideration.

5676. At all events you would feel grave doubts whether it would be expedient to introduce it into a country where it does not exist?

I have no doubt upon that point; I think that it would be unwise to introduce a law of settlement into Ireland.

5677. Of any sort?

Yes.

5678. Just state your leading reasons against the introduction of such a law?

I have, I think, stated them before, but I will endeavour to do so again. In the first place, then, it would prevent that free circulation of labour which is necessary in every community, and more particularly so in a community circumstanced as the Irish community is; in the next place, a law of settlement must, I apprehend, be accompanied by a right to relief; for if you say to a person that he shall remain in a certain spot, as settlement practically does, you are bound

to

to support him there; then if a person becomes destitute in a place where he is not settled, you must have the law of removal to take him to the place which is liable for his support. These are all restrictions on the freedom of the labourer, and must operate injuriously upon his character and conduct, and tend to destroy his independent action, and his self-reliance and self-respect.

5679. Would it be possible for a Board of Guardians, under the present law, to refuse relief to able-bodied paupers in a state of starvation in Ireland?
I should think that they ought not to refuse relief in such a case.

5680. Would it be justifiable to refuse it under the present law?
They would not be punishable in Ireland for refusing it. They have an absolute discretion as to relief.

5681. Why do you consider that the law of settlement necessarily involves what you consider a right to relief?
I have always contemplated that the two were concurrent, and worked together, for the reason I have just stated; namely, that if you say to a person, "You shall not remove beyond this limit; you shall not go elsewhere to search for a living," you must give him the means of living within that limit; and our law of settlement does this; it gives him a right to be relieved there.

5682. The law of settlement does not forbid his going beyond that limit?
If he leaves it he will not be entitled to assistance; practically, therefore, it does forbid him.

5683. There being a law of settlement, that is to say, a law which defines the particular community which ought to maintain a person, if it is thought right by the parochial authorities, the Board of Guardians, or any other authority, that he should be maintained, why does that involve in it a right to relief?
If you say to a person, "You shall not be entitled to relief in any other place," it is equivalent (if he feels that he is in danger of ever wanting relief) to saying that he shall never leave that place; and such is, I think, the practical effect of the law of settlement.

5684. You said that you did not think the Electoral Divisions in Ireland too large; do you think that the area of taxation in England is too small?
In many cases I think it is.

5685. What do you think are the disadvantages of too small an area of taxation?
The area of taxation is the area of chargeability. The limitation applies to both; whatever is the area chargeable, that should be the area of taxation. If you limit the one, you limit the other. The parishes are very small in some parts of the country. I have one Union in my eye now, in which there are 77 little parishes. It is thus cut up into little conflicting elements, causing much friction and confusion in the working. With such a number and variety of interests to be consulted, there cannot be so good an administration of its affairs. I have no doubt but that in this country a Union rating would be generally advantageous.

5686. Your objection to so small an area of taxation is, that it has a tendency to prevent the circulation of labour?
Yes, certainly, that is one objection.

5687. In which case is there the greatest difficulty; in England, in employing the poor in a parish that is small, and where only a few persons are interested in agreeing together; or in Ireland, in a large parish, where there are a greater number of different interests; some individuals being willing to perform their duty, while others may successfully resist it?
I do not think that it would follow, necessarily, that there should be more difficulty in the employment of the poor (by which I presume is meant the labouring population) in a large parish than in a small one. The employment of the labourers must depend upon the amount of legitimate call for their labour. I cannot understand that there should be any continuous and healthy employment of a different character; nor do I think it desirable that there should be. Charitable or eleemosynary employment is not a healthy or useful kind of employment; and I should be sorry to see it prevail in this country to a great extent, although

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although a considerate attention to the proportioning of employment, so as to spread it over the whole of the year, and thus to prevent the labourer's being thrown entirely out of work at particular seasons is much to be desired, and would, I believe, be found advantageous both to the employer and the labourer.

5688. According to your knowledge of the practice of the English law, is it or not notorious that persons residing in small parishes are generally better employed throughout the winter than those in large parishes?
I cannot say that it is not so, but I am not aware that it is so.

5689. You have stated, have you not, in your previous examination, that you think that the larger parishes are better administered than the smaller ones?
No, I did not state that. I said that the Unions consisting of a small number of large parishes are in general better managed than the Unions consisting of a large number of small parishes.

5690. Is that because there is a better selection of Guardians from the large parishes than from the small ones?
I think that there are fewer disturbing causes in operation in the one case than in the other.

5691. In saying that you do not think the Electoral Divisions too large, you mean, I presume, generally speaking, there may be particular cases in the West and South of Ireland in which the Electoral Divisions may be inconveniently large?
I have no doubt that there are such cases. When the Unions were formed, the survey of Ireland had only been completed for about one half of the country; and how we succeeded in getting the Unions formed as we did, I hardly know; it was done, but I do not think I could do it again.

5692. Do you consider that in some cases, in prescribing the limits both of the Electoral Divisions and Unions, it was contemplated only as a temporary arrangement?
In some cases we could hardly ascertain any recognized boundaries.

5693. The size of a Union was in some measure owing to the difficulty of providing the necessary machinery within it?
Yes, that was one difficulty.

5694. Do you approve of the size of the Unions in Ulster generally?
Yes, I do.

5695. If the Unions in Munster and in Connaught are very much larger than those in Ulster, should you conceive that they were too large?
I do not know that I should; it depends very much upon circumstances, upon the amount and character of the population, and upon the nature of the country; there are some wild districts in Munster and Connaught.

5696. Would it not be an objection, that persons in such a country might have to go a very great distance to the Union-house before they could obtain relief?
There are, I think, a few cases of that kind.

5697. Should you not say that a Union of 12,000 acres, unless it was mountain, was too large?
I think that would depend very much upon the amount of the population, and how they were located.

5698. To speak generally, unless there were some peculiar circumstances in the case, should you not think that 12,000 acres were rather beyond the mark?
I should think them quite enough.

5699. You mean 12,000 acres of good land, not mountain?
Yes, land of average quality.

5700. Do you now confirm the evidence that you gave yesterday?
Yes, I do, upon my oath.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Captain

Captain DOUGLAS LABALMONDIERE is called in, and examined as follows:

Captain D. Labalmondiere.

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5701. YOU have been employed in Ireland by the Government, in some of the most distressed districts, in superintending the administration of relief under the Public Works Act, and subsequently under the Relief Act?

I was employed under the Public Works Act in Kerry, and subsequently under the Relief Act in Kerry, and, lastly, under the Poor Law Commissioners in Mayo and Galway.

5702. Have you recently been acting as Poor Law Inspector for the Unions of Tuam and Ballinrobe?

I was originally appointed to Tuam in February 1848, and I remained there until October; then I removed to Ballinrobe.

5703. Will you describe to the Committee the state of those Unions?

The state of Tuam was very much distressed; but not so much so as that of Ballinrobe; but I do not think that anybody can conceive it who has not witnessed it.

5704. Are both of those Unions administered by Vice-Guardians?

Yes, both of them.

5705. Has the Workhouse accommodation in those Unions been considerably extended of late?

Yes, it has been extended in Tuam since I left; when I left Tuam it had been increased from accommodation for 800 to accommodation for about 1,700. It has, since I left Tuam, been further increased, but to what extent I do not know; in Ballinrobe there is accommodation for 1,600 now.

5706. In both of those Unions the Workhouse accommodation is insufficient to enable the Vice-Guardians to relieve within the Workhouse all the applicants for relief?

The accommodation is totally inadequate.

5707. To what classes of paupers is out-door relief administered?

It is administered to all classes of paupers in the Ballinrobe Union.

5708. Without restriction?

Yes.

5709. Do you conceive that it would have been possible, under present exigencies, to have provided sufficient Workhouse accommodation for all the paupers?

We could not obtain it; we tried everywhere throughout the Union to get Workhouse accommodation, and we failed in procuring it.

5710. Do you conceive that the administration of out-door relief, under those circumstances, was absolutely necessary to prevent a great number of persons from dying through hunger and want?

I deferred, as long as I could with safety to the people, applying for authority to administer relief to the able-bodied and other classes.

5711. Can you state to the Committee what number of out-door poor are upon the relief list at the present time?

I received a letter from one of the Vice-Guardians about a week ago, which stated that there were 22,300 upon the relief list now.

5712. Altogether?

Yes.

5713. What is the population of the Union now?

According to the Census of 1841 it was 85,000.

5714. The population has considerably decreased since that time, has it not?

Yes.

5715. To what extent has it decreased?

I cannot say; I think that the information one gets as to the decrease is not to be implicitly relied on.

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5716. But the population has considerably decreased?
Yes.

5717. Is the number of applicants for relief increasing weekly, or is it stationary at the present time?
It is increasing; immediately after the relief, authorized under the second section, was given, there was a rush of all the able-bodied, who thought that they would be immediately put on the lists.

5718. Can you say at what date that order was issued?
I think about Christmas.

5719. Is it your opinion that the number of applicants for relief in the Ballinrobe Union is likely to increase from the present time till after the harvest?
I think the lists will increase; I do not know whether the weekly number of applicants will be greater than hitherto; but I am sure that the number on the relief lists will increase from this time up to July.

5720. In consequence of the increase of destitution?
Yes.

5721. Do you know the amount of rate that is collected in that Union?
I think about 9,000*l.* has been collected of the last rate and arrears.

5722. What has been the amount of the rate struck?
It is a 3*s.* rate, which amounted to about 12,000*l.*; and the arrears were 4,400*l.*

5723. Do you consider any portion of the existing arrears to be recoverable or not?
They have not finished their collection; I think they will not be able to collect the last third of the rate, or about 5,000*l.* out of 17,000*l.*

5724. Is the amount that has been collected as large an amount of rate as could be reasonably expected to be collected in that Union?
I think that due diligence has been used.

5725. You have stated that out of the last rate of 17,000*l.*, you expect that 12,000*l.* will have been collected?
Yes.

5726. If another rate of 3*s.* in the pound was struck at the present time, what proportion of that do you think it would be possible to collect?
I should not like to state the exact proportion; but I think you would not collect a very great deal of it.

5727. How much would a 3*s.* rate amount to?
The last rate amounted to 12,782*l.*

5728. When was that struck?
It was put in course of collection in October.

5729. Do you mean that the whole 3*s.* rate will have been collected, according to your opinion, by the last collection?
I think that about 12,000*l.* will have been collected.

5730. That is the amount of the 3*s.* rate?
Yes, without the arrears.

5731. Was there any portion of the former rate collected after the harvest, before this rate was in course of collection?
I only went to the Union in October, and I think that there had been a stoppage put to the collection of the rate.

5732. You believe that this 3*s.* rate was the first rate that was in collection subsequently to the last harvest?
Yes, with the exception of a very small sum which may have been collected.

5733. With the great amount of destitution which exists in that Union, do you think it possible to give sufficient relief without extraneous assistance?
I do not.

5734. From

5734. From what class of rate-payers are the arrears chiefly due that are unpaid?
Just before I left the Union it was stated by the rate-collectors, in answer to applications made to them, that it was chiefly due by the occupiers.

5735. By the occupiers of land?
Yes.

5736. Your apprehension is, that if another 3*s.* rate were put in collection before the next harvest, only a small portion of it would be collected?
I feel convinced that only a small portion would be collected.

5737. Is there not a great extent of land lying waste in that Union?
Yes.

5738. Have not a great many tenants deserted the land?
I believe that they have gone away without paying their rents.

5739. Do not you consider that if an additional rate was struck in this Union at the present time, it would create such an alarm as very much to add to the extent of the waste land?
Undoubtedly.

5740. If these arrears continue to accumulate in this way, must not that lead to a great pressure upon the lands that continue to pay?
Very much.

5741. Supposing that pressure to continue, must it not gradually increase the insolvency of the land?
Yes.

5742. And accordingly as the insolvency of part of the land increases, the pressure upon the remaining part must increase also?
Yes, in exact proportion.

5743. That would amount very nearly, would it not, to a confiscation of the land?
I apprehend that that is what it would arrive at ultimately.

5744. You are aware that the authorities in a Union have the power of applying in the superior Courts for the recovery of the rates?
Yes.

5745. You are aware that the consequence of such proceedings, by obtaining decrees from those Courts, must lead to the sale of the estate of inheritance of the lessor?
I believe it may.

5746. In your opinion, would it be more just rather to sell the estate of inheritance in those lands, the owners of which are defaulters in not paying the rates, or to continue an increased pressure upon persons who make greater exertions, and who do pay, as long as possible, the rates?
I have never considered that.

5747. But the process you have described as likely to take place, might very possibly lead to the entire insolvency of several Electoral Districts, almost of an entire Union?
Ultimately it might.

5748. Do you think that it is tending that way now?
I do.

5749. Do you think the imposition of a maximum rate would have a great effect in restoring confidence, and re-creating a disposition to occupy land?
Yes, I do.

5750. Could you give the Committee any notion of what the maximum would be to produce that effect?
I do not think that you could collect more than 5*s.* in the pound out of that Union.

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5751. In a year?
Yes.

5752. If the maximum were fixed at 5*s.*, do you think there would be that renewed confidence and disposition to take land?
I do not feel myself competent to answer that question.

5753. If that were not sufficient for the maintenance of the poor, how would you recommend that the sum should be made up; from what source should it come?
I think that if a rate in aid is obtained from any other source, that each Electoral Division that obtains that assistance should pay in proportion to the rate in aid it receives, in order not to induce Electoral Divisions, when they have reached nearly to that maximum, to increase it up to that point in order that their neighbours might pay entirely for them; for instance, suppose an Electoral Division and the taxation for it amounted to 4*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, 5*s.* being the maximum, it would be very liable to rate itself for the 5*s.* to avoid having to contribute to its neighbours.

5754. Do you think it fair that an Electoral Division that maintains all the poor within it should be taxed for another Electoral Division in which they have no interest?
Somebody must assist them.

5755. Do you think that the other Electoral Districts would be able to pay an additional 2*s.*, added to the 5*s.*, which would make 7*s.* in the Ballinrobe Union?
No.

5756. You have stated that upon the receipt of the sealed orders, very numerous applications to be put upon the lists were made?
Yes.

5757. The Ballinrobe Union is a large Union, is it not?
A very large Union.

5758. Had you mainly to decide upon putting the names upon the lists?
Not at all.

5759. Who had to decide?
The Vice-Guardians.

5760. The relieving officers decide, do they not?
They take the applications, and the Vice-Guardians decide as to who shall receive relief.

5761. Have you reason to know or to believe that, practically, no persons were put upon the list that were not fully entitled to be so; I mean particularly with reference to what is called the 4*l.* Clause?
No; I believe quite the contrary; I believe that persons were in receipt of relief who had no business to have it. Many received that relief in consequence of certificates being given to them.

5762. When you say they had no business to have it, do you mean because they were not legally entitled to it, or because they were not destitute persons?
I mean because they were not legally entitled to it.

5763. But destitution has reached a great many persons who were of a class not legally entitled to it?
I think that a great number of them were struggling to keep on, and that they were in very great distress indeed.

5764. From what you saw of the Union, were there not persons who were in the legal occupation of some acres of land, and yet who were in fact complete paupers?
I believe them to have been as nearly as wretched as anybody.

5765. And they were applicants for relief as paupers, although they could not or had not virtually and legally surrendered the land?
They did apply for relief, although they had not surrendered the land.

5766. Did

5766. Did it not happen frequently that the names of those very persons appeared in the lists of the rate-payers, whilst at the same time they were receiving relief from the Poor-house?
I do not know of any instance. It has been stated to me by the rate-collector that such was the case.

5767. Is it not your opinion, under the circumstances in which the Union was placed, there might be a person whose name would appear on the rate-book as the occupier of rateable property, which person was, in point of fact, reduced to a state of absolute pauperism?
I believe it was so.

5768. Is there not immense imposition practised on the Relieving Officers?
There is.

5769. And by the Relieving Officers upon the Vice-Guardians?
I think that the Relieving Officers now are inclined to do their duty, but the sharpest individual cannot detect the imposition, they are such adepts at it, besides the assistance they have in deception.

5770. What assistance is that?
I will read an extract from a letter which I received the other day from a Vice-Guardian of the Union. He says, "I have three certificates now in my possession, given by a gentleman in Mayo to tenants, stating that they had given up their land, and were totally destitute. The Relieving Officer visited them in the middle of the night, and found with one, four cows; with another, three cows; and with a third, two cows and an ass. This is the gentleman who proposed to me to allow him to get his tenants on the relief till the harvest, when he would give them back their land, as he did last year."

5771. Will you state to the Committee whether, to your knowledge, that collusion between the tenant and the landlord is not of very common occurrence?
I believe it to be so. I cannot say, of my own knowledge, that I know of any instance that I can lay my finger on. There is an impression on my mind that it is so.

5772. A great many applicants come with certificates, not only from the landlords, but also from the clergy, do they not?
They do.

5773. Is it not your impression and belief that a great many of those certificates are very improperly given?
It was stated to me by the Reverend Mr. Hughes, Roman Catholic Clergyman, for Claremorris, two days after I arrived in the Ballinrobe Union, in the Board-room, that he considered it to be "morally justifiable to give certificates to get the starving creatures meal, without reference to the statements contained in them being correct." I took down his words.

5774. The Ballinrobe Union is managed by Vice-Guardians, is it not?
Yes.

5775. Are they entire strangers to the country?
Yes.

5776. In the Ballinrobe Union, those Vice-Guardians have been changed, have they not?
Since my coming there, they have been changed once or twice. One has remained in the Union always, Mr. Fishbourne.

5777. Will you state whether you conceive that strangers, as those Vice-Guardians must be, can possibly detect imposition in so large a Union as the Union of Ballinrobe?
I think, as I said before, that they are liable to be very much imposed upon. At the same time, I think they are quite free from all local influences and prejudices, and are able to do their duty better than persons who might have been selected from the neighbourhood itself.

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5778. Were not similar impositions practised upon the officers employed by the Board of Public Works, and upon the officers employed under the Relief Commissioners?
Yes.

5779. Those were equally strangers to the country?
Yes, they were; but the lists were furnished by the Committees themselves.

5780. Have you ever observed how large a proportion of widows there are among the applicants for relief?
Yes, I have.

5781. Is it your belief that there is an extraordinary amount of imposition practised by the greater part of those so-called widows?
Yes; many cases have been detected, to my knowledge.

5782. Have you not heard that it is a very common practice to lend children for the purpose of producing them before the Board of Guardians?
I have seen it done.

5783. Do you not know that it is very common for the same person to apply repeatedly on the same day, under different names, for relief?
I have not known that on the same day. I have known of persons getting relief in two places.

5784. Do you mean relief in two different Unions, or relief from two different Relieving Officers?
Both.

5785. Was Ballinrobe Union one of them?
Ballinrobe and Tuam.

5786. The pauper travelled from Ballinrobe into Tuam, and got relieved there, having also got relief in Ballinrobe?
No, he travelled from the Tuam to the Ballinrobe Union when I was in the Tuam Union.

5787. Do not you think that it would be a very wise provision of the law if an application for relief under false pretences were punishable before the Magistrates?
I do think so.

5788. A question has been put respecting the conduct of the clergy with regard to the recommendation of certain improper parties; will you state whether by the word "clergy," the Protestant clergy of the neighbourhood are also included?
I have seen certificates from both parties, but those to which I should principally refer, certainly are the Roman Catholic clergy.

5789. Neither the Presbyterian nor the clergy of the Church of England have been in the habit of recommending improper persons?
There are no Presbyterian clergy, I think; but I have known Protestant clergymen to recommend people who have been upon investigation refused relief by the Vice-Guardians, and quite with my concurrence.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till Tuesday next, One o'clock.

Die Martis, 27° Martii 1849.

The EARL OF ST. GERMANS in the Chair.

Captain DOUGLAS LABALMONDIERE is called in, and further examined as follows:

5790. WHEN did you arrive at Ballinrobe, to act as the Inspector of that district?
On the 10th of October.

5791. At what date was the rate struck?
The rate had been agreed on previously, but the warrants were not signed.

5792. In short, it was struck after you arrived at Ballinrobe?
The warrants for the collection were signed after my arrival, but the rate had been agreed on before.

5793. Had there been a revision of the rates of Ballinrobe?
There had been a revision; a reviser had been appointed to consider the objections which had been made; the revision was all over previously to my arrival there.

5794. Subsequently to the striking of the rate, were there many notices of appeal?
There were a good many notices from Lord Sligo, and some from Lord Lucan.

5795. Was there any application from Lord Lucan to refer his objections to an arbitration?
I believe there was; I was upon leave of absence at the time.

5796. You never saw the letter addressed to the Guardians by Lord Lucan?
I did not see the letter; I have heard of it.

5797. Have you not seen it to the present time?
No, I have not.

5798. You did not hear from the Vice-Guardians that such a letter had been written?
Yes, I did, upon my return.

5799. Did they tell you the nature of the reply they had given?
They told me they had referred it to the Poor Law Commissioners. One of them told me that he had written to Lord Lucan in the absence of the other, and had forwarded his Lordship's letter to the Poor Law Commissioners.

5800. Can you tell the Committee what the reply of the Commissioners was to that communication?
I received directions from the Poor Law Commissioners to obtain from the clerk of the Union an exact statement of the grounds of the appeal made by his Lordship in each case, and to forward the details to them, which I did.

5801. Can you inform the Committee what the instructions of the Commissioners were upon the subject of those appeals?
I cannot.

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5802. Were those instructions given by letter to the Solicitor, or were they given by letter to the elected Guardians?
The whole business took place when I was upon leave of absence, and I cannot speak to it certainly.

5803. Were you at Ballinrobe at the time the appeals were heard at the Quarter Sessions?
I was not; I was on leave of absence at that time.

5804. Are you aware whether counsel was employed for the purpose of opposing the appeals at those Sessions?
Counsel was employed.

5805. Are you aware whether those counsel allowed the cases to be heard upon their merits, or whether they attempted to defeat them upon technicalities?
I believe some of the grounds of appeal of Lord Lucan were defeated upon technicalities.

5806. Will you tell the Committee what those technicalities were?
I cannot call them to mind at present, but I am aware that some of them were defeated upon technicalities.

5807. You state to the Committee that the Vice-Guardians, through their counsel, prevented those appeals being heard upon their merits?
I state that some of them were defeated by technicalities.

5808. That they were not heard upontheir merits?
They were not heard at all, I believe; I was absent at the time, and I cannot speak with certainty to it.

5809. You state to the Committee that by the directions of theVice-Guardians, through their counsel, those appeals were dismissed on technical points of law?
I state that counsel was retained by the Vice-Guardians, and that that counsel acted, as I believe, according to the best of his judgment. I do not believe that the Vice-Guardians gave him any detailed directions.

5810. You only state that they were dismissed on technical points of law?
I believe they were, some of them.

5811. And that those cases were never heard upon their merits?
I believe not.

5812. But you cannot state to the Committee what those technical points of law were?
No, I cannot.

5813. Have you any suggestion which you wish to make to the Committee?
With regard to the enforcement of labour in Workhouses, it is very necessary that something should be devised to make that labour real, which it is not at present.

5814. Will you explain more particularly what you mean?
At present the only punishment which the Vice-Guardians can inflict is the stoppage of milk, or something similar to that; the only means of confinement which they have in a large Workhouse, such as that of Ballinrobe, which is built for 800 persons, is one small cell, which is quite insufficient to produce subordination, and the means at present at their disposal are not sufficient to enable them to enforce labour as it ought to be enforced in Workhouses. If they apply to the Magistrate, the fact is the gaols are so full now, that the application is hardly ever attended with any beneficial results, as far as persons being sent there is concerned, and the work in the Workhouses is a farce. I have failed to devise any means under the present law of enforcing labour, and I think when the paupers admitted are to be fed by the public, if they refuse or neglect to work, they ought to be liable to be turned out of the house.

5815. Does not that liability exist now?
No; if the Vice-Guardians turn a pauper out of the house, and he dies, they are responsible for it.

5816. Did you ever know a case where the Vice-Guardians did turn a pauper out?

I have

I have known cases where they have been obliged to take it upon themselves to do so. *Captain D. Labalmondiere.* 27th March 1849.

5817. Do you conceive that the Guardians are bound to maintain a pauper in the Workhouse who refuses to work?
They have first to punish him for insubordination, then for refractory conduct, and then to bring him before the Magistrates, but they cannot turn him out legally.

5818. Why cannot they turn him out legally?
If he dies, they are responsible for his death.

5819. Do you conceive that the Board of Guardians is responsible for the death of a man whom they refuse to relieve because he refuses to work?
At present, as far as regards relief in the Workhouse.

5820. What kind of work would you propose in a Workhouse?
I think hand-mills might be introduced very beneficially for grinding their own corn.

5821. There are a great many in the North of Ireland, are there not?
I believe there are in several Unions; I know there are in some.

5822. And also places of confinement, you think, should be provided?
Yes, further means of confinement; there is only one small cell in a large house for 800 paupers now.

5823. Have not complaints been made to the Poor Law Commission in Dublin?
Yes, they are aware of it.

5824. Are they aware of the reluctance of Guardians to turn out paupers who refuse to work?
I believe they are.

5825. Have they taken no measures to alter the opinions of the Guardians upon this subject?
No, I think not; I think they have taken the same view themselves.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

GEORGE CRAMPTON, Esquire, is called in, and examined as follows: *G. Crampton, Esq.*

5826. YOU are manager of one of the largest properties in the district of Erris?
I am.

5827. Are you well acquainted with the working of the Poor Law in that district?
I am, pretty well.

5828. In what Union is the property situated with which you are connected?
In Ballina Union.

5829. Will you describe to the Committee the state of that Union with regard to pauperism, and with regard to its financial state?
I know the district better than the Union.

5830. Will you state generally the condition of the district; first of all, what is the general condition of the people?
The general condition of the peasantry is, that they are very small holders of land; the average size of the arable part of their holdings I should say does not exceed two Irish acres; there are large tracts of mountain which I do not take into consideration.

5831. Attached to those small holdings?
Yes; the tenure is a very peculiar one. No person has, strictly speaking, (at least very few have) any spot of ground which they can call their own; they hold it in a sort of joint tenancy, so that the same person may have land scattered in five or six different portions of a large townland.

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5832. You apply that not only to the mountain, but to the arable land also; so that a man having two acres, might have those two acres in no less than ten different places?
He might, or more than that; the mountain is grazed generally in common.

5833. What they call their gardens are divided into different portions in different parts, with a view of giving each a share of the land of average fertility?
Yes.

5834. Each person being liable for the rent of his own land?
If they take it as joint tenants, each person is liable for his neighbour; but sometimes the landlord will only hold each person amenable for his own share.

5835. And in the same way as to the poor-rate?
In those very small holdings the landlord is the person liable for the poor-rate.

5836. Are those holdings under 4*l.*?
Most of them are.

5837. If the whole is let in bulk, you mean that the whole cannot be let under 4*l.*?
It is only where a lease exists between the landlord and the occupying tenants that the landlord is not liable. In that district, in 1846, a great many leases fell in, and since that most of the land has been held not under lease.

5838. Is each different slip of land to which you have adverted noted in the rate-book, so that a man who holds land, say on a dozen different spots, has his name entered in the rate-book a dozen different times, or is the whole of the land which he holds, though the portions of it may be half a mile apart, mentioned in bulk?
It is mentioned in bulk; they seem to have been formed by guess rather than by measurement.

5839. The valuer, therefore, has never actually inspected the land?
I do not think the holdings were ever accurately measured.

5840. Does not the gross rent of the whole holding, wherever it is scattered, exceed 4*l.*?
It very often does not exceed 4*l.*

5841. In cases where it does exceed 4*l.*, is it entered upon the rate-book as so many different holdings, or all as one holding?
It is very often entered in one way, and very often in another; it is very often the case that the same man is entered for different holdings, each time being entered for less than 4*l.*

5842. In that case is such a person considered as having a holding under 4*l.*?
He has hitherto been considered as having a holding under 4*l.*

5843. Is not it the case frequently, where those detached spots of ground are held by one individual, and where a lease has been granted, that they are comprised within one lease?
I do not know any instance in which a lease has been granted to an individual holding spots of ground scattered through a townland of that very small amount.

5844. I understood you to say that some of those leases fell in in 1846?
A great many of them.

5845. Have any attempts been made to divide and differently allot those holdings since that time?
Yes; all leases which fell in, in 1846, on Mr. Carter's estate, were what they call striped immediately afterwards, but then came the famine, and everything went to ruin, and very little has been done since.

5846. As regards the rating while the lease existed, of course it would not be considered as a holding under 4*l.*?
While the lease existed, the tenant was liable in the first instance.

5847. Are you aware how the collectors did practically collect the rate upon that land at that time?
From the tenants.

5848. From

5848. From the tenants in bulk represented by one man, or did he go to each man for his share?
To each man for his own share.

5849. How did he make out what his share was when the land was divided in the way you have stated?
It was done by some sort of guess-work or loose estimate; all the tenants in the townland were put down in one column, and sums were put opposite their names, and the rates put opposite to that again.

5850. The share paid by some of those tenants must have been extremely small?
Extremely small, some few pence.

5851. Were the rates paid pretty punctually?
They were paid very well.

5852. Do you know of any cases in which the collector was obliged to have recourse to legal process to enforce them?
Sometimes people were charged poor-rate when they had no land in the townland; there were sometimes mistakes made as to the persons liable, and those persons, of course, objected to pay for lands which they did not possess. In some cases the people did not pay; we find dishonest people in all parts of the world anxious to get rid of liabilities in any way.

5853. Has any case of distraint for rates not paid upon this land come within your knowledge?
Not before 1846; I think, perhaps, there may have been some cases.

5854. Subsequently, if I understand you rightly, the landlord was liable for the rates?
Yes; but even then the lands are liable to distraint, and in some cases, where the landlords did not pay, the lands were distrained; I know one instance in which they were distrained.

5855. You know an instance in which, though the landlord was the party liable, the tenant was distrained upon?
The land was distrained.

5856. The land not being in the occupation of the party liable?
Not being in the occupation of the landlord.

5857. And the monthly notice having been sent?
I am inclined to think, in the instance I allude to, there was a lease; it was not on Mr. Carter's property; but I think there was a lease between the landlord and the tenant. The land is under a Receiver of the Court of Chancery. I think the Receiver himself is the lessee; he has other tenants under him.

5858. He is the lessee under the Court, but the lessor to the occupiers of the soil?
Yes.

5859. He, as the immediate lessor, was the party liable?
He was; but he did not pay, it seems, and there was a distress laid upon the lands. I believe the lessor afterwards did pay; but previously to 1846 the poor-rate was very well paid, and so were the rents.

5860. What amount of rate has been struck in the last twelvemonth in the Ballina Union?
I think it is 3*s.* 1½*d.* in the pound.

5861. How much has been collected?
I cannot say exactly.

5862. Is the arrear large?
The arrear is considerable, I believe.

5863. Is any portion of it recoverable, do you think?
I should think so.

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5864. Has that been general over all the Electoral Divisions in the Union?
I think 3*s.* 1½*d.* was the general amount of the rate struck over the Union; I know that that was in Erris the whole amount of rate that was struck?

5865. Is there much out-door relief given?
A great deal; just before I left Dublin I got the numbers. There are 5,961 persons in the Erris district receiving out-door relief now.

5866. Is that in one Electoral Division?
It is in two Electoral Divisions.

5867. What is the population of that district?
It was about 20,000 in 1841.

5868. That population is immensely reduced now, is not it?
I do not suppose it is reduced more than one-fourth.

5869. What has become of the people?
Many of them went away, and a great many of them died; a great many died in 1846. As I have said, there are 5,961 persons receiving out-door relief, at an expense of 173*l.* 13*s.* weekly; there are 959 receiving in-door relief, at the rate of 1*s.* 6*d.* a head per week, amounting to 71*l.* 18*s.* 6*d.*, making a total of 245*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* a week. The valuation of those two Electoral Divisions is about 10,000*l.* a year.

5870. Is this district to which you have just alluded very much let in small holdings?
Yes, it is nearly all let in small holdings.

5871. Is the effect of that that the land is set at a higher price than it would be, supposing those holdings were of a large size?
Yes, it brings a better rent let in that way.

5872. Which better rent, I suppose, is always paid, excepting in case of famine or the failure of the potatoes?
It is very well paid.

5873. What do you call a small holding?
I call two acres a small holding.

5874. Have you any objection to state the average amount of rental for the arable land in that district?
It varies from place to place; I am inclined to think it would be somewhere about 1*l.* an acre.

5875. Is that an English acre or an Irish acre?
An Irish acre.

5876. How was the right of pasturage limited; was each person limited to so many beasts?
They settled it among themselves; the whole farms were set in what are called sums among themselves.

5877. Was nothing paid for the mountain, apart from the arable land?
Upon grazing farms they paid for the grazing by itself; but in arable farms, that is, where there was a good deal of arable land, but not much grazing, the grazing is given in.

5878. In the case of those small holdings, where there was a great proportion of arable land, I understood you to say that there was a right of pasture over a certain tract of mountain land?
Yes, that is so.

5879. Was the rent paid for that mountain land apart from the rent of the arable land, or did the rent paid for the arable land cover also whatever right of pasturage was attached to the holding?
In general, where the quantity of arable land is considerable in the townland, the rent of the townland is about 20*s.* an acre for the arable land in the townland; but where the arable land is not considerable, where the pasture is very considerable, the rent is more than that.

5880. Are the two rents separated, or is the right of pasture considered when the rent is fixed for the arable portion of the holding?
The arable portion and the right of pasturage always go together; they are the same holding.

5881. What is the general quality of the arable land in this district; is it good or bad?
It is middling; it is quite destitute of lime; it is a primitive soil, which is not generally very fertile.

5882. Does it produce wheat or oats?
Oats.

5883. Is wheat not generally grown upon it?
It is never grown upon it; at least I never saw wheat grown there, and I was there seven or eight years.

5884. Has not some English gentleman taken a large farm in that country lately?
Yes.

5885. What sized farm?
He has taken a farm of about 1,200 acres (English).

5886. Has he paid 1*l.* an acre for that farm?
I suppose there are not more than 50 or 60 of those 1,200 acres which are arable, if there are so many.

5887. Are those 1,200 English acres or Irish acres?
English acres.

5888. Where the farms are so small, is not it the case that the landlord has the poor-rate to pay for a great majority of his tenants?
It is very much the case; Mr. Carter has had to do so.

5889. In consequence of the rating being under 4*l.*?
Yes.

5890. Are there in the district farmers having such large holdings that they are rated, and pay the rate themselves?
Very few; I do not suppose there are more than 20 farms in the whole district in which there are 10 acres of arable land.

5891. In the new agreements into which you entered with your tenants subsequently to the passing of the Act of 1846, did not you add the amount of the rate to the amount of the rent; you said that a great many leases fell in, in the year 1846, after the Act transferring the rate from the occupier to the owner; did not you upon that occasion, when the liability to the rate fell upon the landlord, add the amount of the rate to the amount of the rent previously paid?
No, we did not.

5892. You let the land upon the same terms, though you were called upon to pay the rate?
All we did was this: we took each farm as it stood; I endeavoured, as well as I could, to ascertain the proportion of each farm which each tenant held, the one-twentieth, or the one-thirtieth, or the one-fiftieth, and I endeavoured to divide the farms as conveniently as possible, giving each person together and in one place what he held originally in a great many different places; the rent was slightly raised, which probably would be sufficient to counterbalance the amount of the poor-rate.

5893. Is the valuation for the Poor Law much above or under the actual rent paid?
I should think it does not differ very much from it.

5894. Then you consider the valuation a pretty fair one?
I think it was a pretty fair one previously to 1846; it is not a fair one now.

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5895. Is it now higher in proportion to the rent?
The country now is waste; I suppose forty-nine fiftieth parts of the arable land has been lying waste for the last two years.

5896. Have they not sown any oats there?
No, nor potatoes.

5897. Has the amount of stock upon the mountains diminished very much?
It has disappeared almost.

5898. Have the occupiers abandoned the land?
They are living in their houses, receiving relief, but doing nothing; under the Poor Law they cannot do anything towards cultivating their land while they are receiving relief.

5899. Have any of those occupiers leases, who are living in their houses, having abandoned their land?
I think there is one instance in which there is a man who has a lease who is living in his house, and has abandoned his land.

5900. Does he receive out-door relief?
I rather think not.

5901. You say the stock has entirely disappeared; what is the cause of that; the pasture has not failed, has it?
No; in the olden time the stock was in the hands of the small tenants; each man had one, or two, or three or four head of cattle, according as he was richer or poorer; few of them, I think, had much more than that; when the distress came on in 1846, they were obliged to sell those cattle, and they have sold them all from time to time; within the last two years, in the hands of the small tenants there has been no stock at all.

5902. If I understand you rightly, upon those lands there has been now for nearly, if not quite, two years, no profitable occupation?
None whatever.

5903. Have the rates been struck as against the land in that condition?
They have.

5904. Is that considered to be in conformity with the law?
It is.

5905. Have the rates been demanded from any person?
They have, and have been paid.

5906. Have they been paid upon land which was under no profitable occupation whatever?
They have.

5907. Was the diminution of the cattle occasioned by their being seized and sold by the Guardians?
In some cases they were seized and sold; but the diminution was mainly occasioned by the people themselves being obliged to sell them, and convert the proceeds into food.

5908. I suppose upon Mr. Carter's estate there is a great extent of land which has been wasted by the tenants?
A great extent.

5909. Deserted?
I cannot exactly say deserted, because they are living in their houses, though not cultivating their land.

5910. In those cases, has it been the practice to charge the landlord with the rates?
Wherever the holding in the rate-book is under 4*l.*, or is not above 4*l.*, the landlord has to pay the rate.

5911. Has not it frequently occurred upon Mr. Carter's estate that the landlord is rated as the occupier of lands wasted by the tenant?
I do not know that that is the case.

5912. That

5912. That has not happened to Mr. Carter?
No; but then I must say that there are very few of the farms which Mr. Carter holds in Erris, for which he was obliged to pay, which have tenants upon them, who are rated above 4*l.*

5913. Are you aware of any case in which the land, having been left waste, a subsequent tenant has come in, and the stock of that tenant has been distrained upon for the arrears of rate due by the preceding tenant?
No, I am not aware of any such case, because we have had no new tenants come in upon the land there at all; no person to bring in stock.

5914. Do you apprehend that the fear of being liable for the rates of the preceding tenants, has any effect in preventing new tenants from coming in?
I think it has had such an effect; I am sure it has in some instances.

5915. Is it generally understood that the law in Ireland does authorize the distraining upon the stock of an incoming tenant for rates due by the preceding tenant?
It is.

5916. For rates due at any distance of time, or within a certain limit?
At any distance of time the land is liable.

5917. Supposing the arrears of rate upon that property were paid off, do you think there would be a difficulty in re-peopling the land with tenants, such as you would approve of?
There is no great amount of arrears due upon that property. There are a few properties which owe arrears. There is a great arrear of rent due, but not much rate.

5918. Why is that?
Because the rate is paid by the landlord.

5919. You have stated that a considerable portion of the land in the barony of Erris has been uncultivated; to what cause do you attribute that state of things?
Very much to the inability of the occupying tenantry to cultivate it, and very much to the operation of the Poor Law itself, which denies relief to persons who are in the occupation of more than a small portion of land.

5920. Was there any difficulty in setting those to the occupiers of the adjoining lands?
The occupiers are all very much in the same position.

5921. Do you conceive that the fixing of a maximum rate would have a tendency to restore the confidence of the occupiers, and to induce them to re-cultivate the land?
I think it would. I think it would be of great importance in inducing strangers to the country to take land there, because it would limit their responsibility. They would know the extent to which they might be taxed, and they would regulate their arrangements accordingly.

5922. Do you think it would be desirable that whatever the amount of that tax might be, the sum actually paid for the poor-rate should be paid one-half by the landlord and one-half by the tenant, and not, as is now very frequently the case, that one of those parties should pay a much larger proportion than the other?
I think the present arrangement is a very fair one, because they pay in proportion to their interests.

5923. Why do you think they pay in proportion to their interests?
For instance, I know many cases where the tenant holds a very valuable farm at a very small rent. For example, I know people holding hundreds of acres for hundreds of shillings, instead of hundreds of pounds, which they ought to pay. I think in that case it would be very hard for the landlord to pay half the poor-rate, because that would amount to much more than the whole of his rent.

5924. Supposing a farm to be let for its fair letting value, is not it possible that in such a case the landlord might have to pay more that one-half the poor-rate?
If the valuation for the poor-rate is a fair valuation, he would just have to pay half.

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5925. Is not there often a great distinction between the valuation under the Poor Law and the amount at which a farm is supposed to be fairly set?
It is sometimes the case. I think, in general, as far as I have examined into the valuations under the Poor Law in Erris, the valuations are pretty fair.

5926. They generally accord with what is considered a fair rent?
Yes.

5927. The valuation of the two districts alluded to, you say, was 10,000*l.* a year?
Yes.

5928. Of course, if there is much land waste, it is considerably less than that at this moment?
It is very considerably less.

5929. The expenditure at this moment, you say, exceeds 200*l.* a week?
According to the present arrangement, it amounts to 12,769*l.* a year.

5930. Does that include a proportion of the establishment charges?
No.

5931. Independently of the establishment charges, the expenditure at this time exceeds 12,000*l.* a year?
It does.

5932. The highest valuation did not exceed 10,000*l.*?
A little more than 10,000*l.*; it did not exceed 11,000*l.*

5933. The valuation has depreciated very much since?
I do not suppose it is worth half what it was worth before 1846; I do not think it is worth more than 5,000*l.* a year.

5934. Therefore 20*s.* in the pound actual value would not defray the actual expenses of the district?
Certainly not.

5935. To your knowledge, does it happen that any proprietors in the district at the present time actually pay more rates than they receive rent?
I think Mr. Carter is the largest rate-payer in the country, and he is the largest rent receiver too; but I am inclined to think that, taking into consideration the rents which he receives from people who hold leases under him in perpetuity, and people who hold other valuable leases under him who have property elsewhere, out of which they can pay rent, he has received as much or more than he has paid in the way of rates.

5936. I confine my question simply to that particular district?
He has people who hold land under him in Erris, who have properties elsewhere, out of which they can afford to pay the rents which they owe him; taking those rents into consideration, I think he has received more rent out of Erris than he has paid in poor-rates.

5937. If you remove from your consideration those perpetuities, and confine it to the lands which are considered to be let at a fair value, do you consider that he has received as much rent in respect of those particular lands as he has paid in rates?
He paid this year upwards of 200*l.* poor-rate for lands which he got nothing out of at all.

5938. Was there no beneficial occupation of those lands?
None whatever to him, nor to anybody else.

5939. Then how came he not to appeal against his being charged for them?
He did appeal, but there was some fault in the recognizance.

5940. Was it a technical difficulty, or a difficulty affecting the merits of the question?
Quite technical; it was from placing the wrong county in the margin instead of the right one. The recognizance was executed in the county of Fermanagh; by some accident Fermanagh got into the body of the recognizance, and the appeals were not heard in consequence.

5941. Have

5941. Have you seen the Report of the Boundary Commissioners?
I have.

5942. Are you aware whether it is the intention to make Erris a separate Union or not?
I know that it is the intention to make those two divisions which I speak of a separate Union.

5943. They are to compose a Union in themselves?
They are.

5944. Is it in contemplation to build a Workhouse for that Union?
It is, I understand.

5945. Are you aware what the expense of building Workhouses in Ireland has been generally?
No, I cannot say that I am; something very considerable, I know.

5946. If the expense of building a Workhouse for the Union of Erris were to amount to 8,000*l.* or 9,000*l.*, do you believe there is property in the contemplated new Union to pay the expense of building such a house, and to maintain the establishment which such a house would necessitate?
Not if the present state of things remains; but if the country were properly cultivated—if it passed into the hands of persons who had means to cultivate it—I think it would support itself.

5947. Previously to the potato failure, was that district sufficiently wealthy of itself to have built such a house and maintained such an establishment?
I do not think it was.

5948. Do you think, upon the whole, it is desirable to make that alteration in the Union?
I think it is better than to have it attached to a larger Union; the distance from the Poor-house was too great. It was upwards of 50 miles from a part of the division to the Poor-house.

5949. Do you think that there are residing in that district of Erris individuals who are competent to perform the duties of Guardians?
I think very few.

5950. Then do you contemplate the probability of Vice-Guardians being always appointed for that particular Union?
I think, until the state of society alters very much there, it will be quite necessary to have them.

5951. Will you inform the Committee what Magistrates there are in the Barony of Erris?
Mr. Denis Bingham is one; I am myself another.

5952. Are there in the whole of that district but two gentlemen who are in the Commission of the Peace?
That is all.

5953. How many Electoral Divisions are there in the Union?
Two.

5954. How many are expected in future?
Fourteen; they are two very large divisions now. The two divisions contain about 140,000 acres.

5955. How many Guardians do they send to the Union?
The business has been managed there for many years by Vice-Guardians.

5956. Previously to the appointment of the Vice-Guardians, how many, under the existing regulations, were appointed?
I think three for each division.

5957. Do you think there are a sufficient number of competent men in the district to take the office, supposing there to be a return to the system of elected Guardians?
I cannot say that there are.

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5958. Then, in fact, it comes to this: that the persons who are appointed Guardians in the first instance must always remain Guardians, for there can be no fresh election?

I do not quite understand the question.

5959. Leaving out of the question altogether the law as to Vice-Guardians, which may expire, there would be three Guardians for each of those divisions; but you say there are not a sufficient number of competent persons in that country from whom to choose Guardians; will not it follow, therefore, that the persons who are originally elected Guardians, must continue to be so?

The next three might be as good as the first three.

5960. You think there are still among the population persons who might be elected as Guardians?

I do not say that the first three will be very good Guardians.

5961. Is not there a probability that they would be the best that could be found?

It is not at all probable, I think.

5962. Have you been recently in Erris?

I have within the last three or four months.

5963. What is the condition of the lower classes of the people there now?

They are as poor as they possibly can be.

5964. Can you give any description of their condition in regard to clothing?

They are wretchedly clad; they are in rags most of them; some of them nearly naked.

5965. Are they in a state which is consistent with decency?

Indeed, they are not, in general.

5966. Do you think they have the means at present of procuring clothing?

I am quite sure they have not.

5967. I am now speaking of persons not actually receiving relief; in what condition are they with regard to food?

They are very badly off for food too.

5968. Even those who are not receiving relief?

Yes, even those who are not receiving relief.

5969. What is the food which they principally subsist on?

They live upon a mixture of Indian meal and turnips generally.

5970. In their physical condition, subsisting upon that Indian meal and turnips, are they capable, or not, of doing hard labour?

The Indian meal and turnips, if there is enough of the Indian meal with the turnips, makes very good food; and probably it is as good a food as the potato which was generally grown in that country, which is of a very watery and washy description.

5971. Supposing they have not the means of obtaining a sufficiency of Indian meal, how do they do upon the turnips alone?

Very badly.

5972. Are there many who are compelled to subsist upon the turnips alone?

There are a great many who are very glad to get them.

5973. You are speaking of persons now who are not receiving relief?

I am speaking of persons who are not receiving relief, but who would be very glad to get relief if they could. Of course the Poor Law officers are anxious to keep down the number upon the relief list as much as possible.

5974. They would be very glad to get relief if they could?

Yes.

5975. Why is it, then, that they cannot get relief?

Because the Poor Law officers think that they are not bound to give relief to people who can in any other way support themselves or live.

5976. The

5976. The Poor Law officers are Vice-Guardians, are not they?
Yes.

5977. Do you know at all what test the Vice-Guardians establish of whether a man subsist in any other way; what is the criterion by which they are guided?
They first of all, through the Relieving Officer and by their own inspection, endeavour to ascertain as far as possible the circumstances of the applicant, and if they think him a proper person to get relief, they then put him upon what they call a working party, where they are employed a certain number of hours each day in breaking stones, or something of that kind, so as to test whether he is in distress or not, because he gets so small a quantity for his day's work, that if he is not really in distress he probably will not like to undergo the ordeal.

5978. If he does not undergo this ordeal, they do not think he ought to have relief?
Certainly.

5979. Are many persons denied relief upon the ground of what is called the Quarter Acre Clause?
People holding land in Ireland are generally denied relief; but from the circumstances of the tenures existing in the country, which I described just now, it is very difficult to ascertain exactly what quantity of land a man rents, especially as the peasantry themselves are very unwilling to let the Relieving Officer or any person connected with Poor Law know more than is necessary about their circumstances.

5980. The effect of that is, that the Quarter Acre Clause is not very effective in its operation?
No, it is not there; and in that particular part of the country, where there are no tenants or no persons in the neighbourhood who could cultivate the land if deserted, I do not see what object is gained by insisting upon it.

5981. With respect to those who are not receiving relief, in what state of health are they?
The general appearance of the peasantry is very wretched; they look thin and miserable; they look as if they were starved; sometimes they are attacked by fever, and carried off in great numbers; there was a fever there about a month ago, and a good many persons were carried off by it.

5982. Are they afflicted by those classes of disease which arise from great penury and poor diet?
I think fever is generally the disease they are afflicted with; I have heard of dysentery prevailing a good deal too.

5983. Have they been extensively afflicted with fever and dysentery?
Indeed they have.

5984. Does that also apply to those who receive relief as well as to those who do not receive relief?
I think that those who receive relief are generally in better health and better looking than those who do not.

5985. So that those who do not receive relief are in a worse condition than those who are receiving it?
Sometimes they are; of course I apply my observations to that particular class which are near the boundary between the recipients of relief and the non-recipients; there are some persons a little above those to whom those observations do not apply.

5986. What kind of food is given to those who are receiving out-door relief?
Generally Indian meal.

5987. Is anything else given?
No, I do not think there is; I think Indian meal is the ordinary food.

5988. How much of Indian meal do they give to an adult?
I think about a pound a day.

5989. What is the objection to persons living in the district to take land which has been abandoned?
There

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There is no one there able to take it; there are no persons in the district who have money or means to take land.

5990. Has the mortality been very considerable in the district of Erris?
It was in 1846 very considerable; it was considerable, again, between the expiration of the Relief Commission operation at the commencement of the Poor Law relief; but since then the Poor Law Commissioners have kept the people alive very well.

5991. You state that the holdings in those two districts of Binghamstown and Belmullet are very small?
Yes.

5992. Are the properties extensive generally, or not?
Mr. Carter owns a very large property.

5993. Have you any objection to state the extent of Mr. Carter's property, and the population upon it?
Mr. Carter has (not leased against him for ever) about 51,000 English acres.

5994. Is the greater portion of that arable land, or is a great portion of it mountain?
The greater proportion is mountain; the valuation under the Ordnance of those 51,000 acres is about 2,500*l.* a year.

5995. Can you state the proportion of arable land in the 51,000 acres?
The proportion is very minute indeed; probably there may be about 2,000 or 3,000 acres of arable land.

5996. English acres?
Yes.

5997. Can you give the Committee an approximation to the population upon the 51,000 acres?
The property comprises about one-third of the district, and I should think the population is about one-third.

5998. What is the population of the district?
It was about 20,000; I should say there are about 5,000 inhabitants upon Mr. Carter's estate.

5999. Does Mr. Carter's property lie pretty nearly together, or is it much interspersed with others?
It is scattered all over the surface of the two divisions.

6000. With intervening proprietors?
Yes.

6001. Are any of them extensive proprietors?
There is Mr. Dennis Bingham, who is the next extensive proprietor in the county; he owns 16,000 acres, valued at about 1,200*l.* a year; Mr. Henry Bingham owns about 10,000 acres, valued at about 400*l.*; Mr. Atkinson owns about 4,000 acres, valued at about 300*l.*; that is according to the Ordnance valuation; Mr. Francis Blake Knox owns about 1,600 acres.

6002. Are all those properties in the same circumstances that Mr. Carter's is; are they much scattered and dispersed?
Mr. Dennis Bingham's property is just as much dispersed as Mr. Carter's, and so is Mr. Henry Bingham's.

6003. In the district of Erris, generally speaking, it would not be possible to make any arrangement of the area of taxation by which properties could be separately made chargeable for their own poor?
No; in the contemplated new divisions by the Boundary Commissioners, they have divided those two divisions into 14 new Electoral Divisions; out of those 14 divisions Mr. Carter's property will be in 12 or 13.

6004. How many of those Electoral Divisions would be altogether the property of Mr. Carter?
Not one; I do not think there is any one division which has less than five or six different proprietors.

6005. From

6005. From the circumstances of the properties being in that country very much like the tenants' holdings, that is, interspersed and intermingled together, it would be impossible to make a distribution of the area of taxation which should individualize the burthen?

Quite impossible.

6006. If it were possible to make such a distribution, or to charge each individual property with the maintenance of its own poor, are you of opinion that Mr. Carter's property of 51,000 acres, there being only 2,000 of them arable, would be capable of maintaining its own poor, if it were relieved from the charge of maintaining any others?

I think it would eventually, but I think it could not raise itself from its present depressed state into a self-supporting state unaided; all the occupying tenants there are almost in a state of starvation; they have nothing to live on till next harvest, and in the interim a vast sum will be required to cultivate the land, and for the support of that population over the extent of 2,000 or 3,000 acres, is more than the means of any private person are capable of.

6007. Can you at all account for the extraordinary dispersion and scattering of properties among different owners in that country, all of them being large owners, but owners in widely dispersed districts?

The whole district was originally held by one owner, Sir Arthur Shane; he left two daughters, to whom the property descended in co-parcenery; afterwards, their descendants, in dividing the property between them, divided each individual farm, at least very nearly so; they did not do that in every instance; in one or two cases there were two or three farms set off against each other, but the general rule was to divide each farm by a line.

6008. If such a measure could be carried on, would a great improvement be effected in the present state of the country, by effecting exchanges of land among proprietors in such a manner as to bring different parts of the property together?

It would serve some proprietors; it would serve the proprietors who have some means by which they could work their estates, but it would not serve those who have none.

6009. Why not?

They cannot do anything; they have no means to work with.

6010. They would be no worse off?

No.

6011. With regard to the proprietors who have some means, would not it greatly facilitate their management of the estates and the well-being the tenants, if those estates, instead of being divided in the manner you speak of, lay together and compact?

It would serve them very much.

6012. Are you aware whether there are any great difficulties in the present state of the law, which would stand in the way of such an arrangement, if the parties themselves were willing to undertake it?

There are difficulties in the law, and difficulties in the circumstances of the properties themselves.

6013. Are you aware that there is a law now in existence for that purpose in England, which is so admirable in its working that an exchange does not cost above 2*l.* or 3*l.*?

I am not aware of that fact.

6014. Supposing such a law as that which I have alluded to were extended to Ireland, do you imagine it would be attended with any benefit?

It would be a great benefit to that district.

6015. You understand the nature of the law to be this: that no money passing between the parties, the Commissioners are authorized to exchange estates, being under settlement, and to transfer any liability from the one estate to the other?

Yes.

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6016. So as to maintain the same security for the creditors, but to transfer the property, in order to suit the convenience of both parties?
Yes.

6017. Are you of opinion that the extension of that principle to Ireland would be exceedingly beneficial in the district of Erris?
Certainly.

6018. Would it have the effect of making the various estates so exchanged more saleable than they are at present?
It would, certainly.

6019. Would it add to their selling value?
I think it would.

6020. You are acquainted with the proposal that has been made for the multiplication of those Electoral Divisions or areas of taxation in the district of Erris; supposing that proposal were carried into effect, do you consider that it would in fact render the support of the poor much more efficient?
The district under no circumstances whatever can support its poor at present, no matter how you divide it.

6021. In reference to the employment of the poor, do you think the reduction of the area of taxation, according to the plan proposed by the Commissioners, would have the effect of securing for the poor more effectual employment than the present state of things does?
The misfortune of the country is, that there are very few who are able to give employment; there are 51 proprietors, and there are only 13 out of the 51 who are not paupers themselves.

6022. By paupers, you mean persons practically insolvent?
Yes.

6023. Out of the 13, are there any whose estates are under Receivers appointed by the Court of Chancery?
I do not think there are; there are very few Receivers over properties in that country; latterly, people have thought it more prudent, probably, not to appoint Receivers, for there is nothing to be had there.

6024. You speak of persons who are creditors, but there may be cases of minors?
There are two or three cases of minors; but I think I have included those among the number of insolvents.

6025. You do not consider the properties as practically of much value?
No.

6026. That being the state of the district, do you fancy that any great advantage will arise to it from the proposed reduction in the area of taxation in that part of the country?
I think there is only one division out of 14 which will be benefited by it in the slightest degree. That would be benefited if the Commissioners would make some little alteration in it, which I hope they will.

6027. Under what circumstances is that division placed, which gives you the impression that it would be benefited?
There is one proprietor, a Mr. Atkinson, who holds 4,000 acres, and who is a very hard-working man, and who is doing a great deal to assist himself and the people in the way of giving employment. All his property, fortunately for him, lies together; it all lies in that one Electoral Division; there is a part of that new Electoral Division which will be held by Mr. Carter, and he would throw whatever assistance he could into a division which was likely to be safe. There is Mr. Henry Bingham, who, I think, would do something, who has also property there.

6028. With the exception of that one Electoral Division, there is neither of the other 13 districts from which you expect to derive any assistance?
I should not have any hope of it.

6029. Did

6029. Did you state that on Mr. Carter's property there were only 2,500 acres of arable land?
I should say so, speaking loosely.

6030. I understood you to say, that the population of that estate amounted to 5,000 persons?
I think so.

6031. Leaving half an acre to each individual?
It would be 1,000 families.

6032. Leaving half an acre to each individual?
I should think so; originally about two acres was the average.

6033. Without the potato cultivation, is it possible for that tillage land upon the property to support the population upon it?
No; unless more of the adjoining mountain is brought into cultivation, I should think not.

6034. In its present state it is impossible?
I think in the present state the utmost which the arable land of the country could do without potatoes, would be to support the population. Under the old system the habit was, before 1846, that each man had half his holding always in potatoes; the other half was in oats. That was the old system. The potatoes went to the support of the family for the year, and the oats went to the payment of the rent, and the provision of anything that might be required in the way of clothing; so that half the arable land of the country was all that was required to support the population. The other half of the arable land of the country went in payment of the rent.

6035. In the event of the continuation of the failure of the potato crop, how would you propose to relieve that property?
You can only relieve it by enabling the population to earn sufficient to support themselves by giving them employment, and you can only give them employment by putting people into the country who have more means than the people who are there now have.

6036. Do you mean that the estate cannot support itself, but that it will be necessary for Mr. Carter to introduce capital to maintain that population?
Certainly, I mean that.

6037. But even supposing that abundance of capital were introduced, and employed in agriculture, do you imagine that it is possible to give employment on 100 acres of land to 200 people?
No, I think that is too many.

6038. Do you know the amount of hands to 100 acres commonly in England?
No.

6039. Is there more of mountain land susceptible of cultivation?
Yes; there are patches scattered over the mountains which are very capable of reclamation.

6040. But would not those very patches in a system of good farming be more advantageous as grass than as arable land?
I think they would be more advantageous as grass if they were first of all cultivated.

6041. Is that the sort of cultivation to which you alluded when you said earlier in your evidence that you thought, if the country were properly cultivated, the barony of Erris itself could advantageously be made a Poor Law Union?
I said that it was better to have it a Poor Law Union than to have it joined to Ballina, because that was too distant. I think, taking into consideration the necessity for supporting the poor, it is advisable to make a Union of it; but as far as respects its own capability of supporting a Workhouse, and of supporting an establishment for the relief of the poor, I do not think the Union is capable of it at all.

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6042. By any process of profitable cultivation, might it be made so?
I think, by profitable cultivation, it might be made capable of supporting its poor.

6043. Has not Mr. Carter himself lately introduced capital by taking a grant under the Land Improvement Act?
He has.

6044. Does he continue to make use of it?
He does.

6045. He is working upon it now?
He is.

6046. Consequently, he expects a profitable return from it?
That is, I think, problematical, rather.

6047. Can he have received that amount of capital so advanced by the Government without showing that it was likely to yield a profitable return according to the terms of the Act under which the loan is made?
It requires two things to make land profitable. One is, that the land shall be in a state to produce crops; the other is, that people shall put crops into it. The reason why I think it is problematical that Mr. Carter will make money of this is, that I am afraid he will not get tenants to take the land when it is drained.

6048. Is that a difficulty in your mind arising from the pressure of the poor-rate, or from other causes?
Indeed, very much from the pressure of the poor-rate.

6049. Are you of opinion that if a maximum could be fixed upon the poor-rate, that maximum would *pro tanto* remove, or greatly diminish, the indisposition of persons to take land?
Certainly, it would.

6050. What maximum do you think would be sufficient to induce people to take land there?
The less the maximum were fixed at, the better for the cultivation of the land.

6051. Could it bear 5*s.*?
It could not pay it at this moment.

6052. Could it if it were properly cultivated?
I think it could if it were properly cultivated.

6053. Will you explain to the Committee what you would consider a proper cultivation of that country to improve it to such a degree that it would be able to support the population that it contains, and to pay poor-rates amounting to 5*s.* in the pound upon a fair valuation?
In the first place, it would be necessary to have all the arable land in the country bearing crops, instead of lying idle, as it is at present. If all the arable land in the country were profitably cultivated and producing valuable crops, it would go a great way towards supporting the whole of the population, if it would not do so entirely; and by extending the breadth of arable land over any part of the mountains which are capable of it, it would supply the deficiency, I should say. Besides that, there is a vast mine of food in the ocean there; there are fisheries which might be cultivated to a very considerable extent, and there are a thousand other ways by which the people might be able to live beyond the cultivation of the land.

6054. You think a large amount of capital might be profitably employed in farming operations in that country?
I think it might.

6055. In speaking of a maximum of 5*s.*, what rent were you supposing to be paid?
If the tenant has to pay the whole 5*s.*, if you value his interest at 20*s.* in the pound, he would only pay 15*s.*

6056. You

6056. You are aware, of course, when we speak of 5 *s.* in the pound, the 5 *s.* does not come out of that pound which is paid to the landlord, but it comes out of what remains to the tenant, after paying his rent?
Certainly.

6057. If it is paid out of the profits of the tenant, does not he, in fixing his rent and making his agreement with his landlord, take that into consideration, so that eventually it becomes a deduction from the rent?
Lately most of the agreements which have been made have been with a view of throwing the whole of the poor-rate upon the landlord. The tenant comes, and says, "I will pay so much an acre for the land, and you must pay all the rates."

6058. Supposing Mr. Carter's exertions to succeed in the improvement of the country, and creating a greater return of agricultural produce from the soil,—I mean such a return as would be more than sufficient to maintain the population,—where would be the market for the surplus produce?
Previously to the famine, the surplus produce of that country was always sent to Liverpool and Glasgow; we had always a sufficient market.

6059. From what port?
From Belmullet.

6060. The district is immediately bordering upon Belmullet?
Yes, it is about the centre of the district.

6061. You are aware that some years ago an improvement was made at Belmullet by the construction of a harbour?
Yes.

6062. Are you aware what the condition of the country was before that harbour was constructed, and what it was subsequently?
Before the construction of the harbour, the people had no means of getting rid of their surplus produce; they neither imported nor exported anything; subsequently to the construction of that harbour, a market was opened for all the commodities that the country, would produce; it so much encouraged the cultivation of that country, that in the course of 20 years the exports of it were increased from one cargo annually to 17 or 18.

6063. The consequence was, that great advantage was derived to the country at large?
Great advantage was derived to the country at large; previous to the famine that country appeared to be getting on remarkably well.

6064. Do you think it would be advantageous to make any other communication through the country to any other port; for instance, to Sligo?
I think steam communication with Sligo would be a great advantage.

6065. You mean steam communication by sea?
By sea.

6066. Have you ever at all thought whether the construction of railways to the north-western corner of the country would be advantageous?
It would; but I am afraid it would not pay the shareholders very well.

6067. Could any works of arterial drainage be profitably undertaken?
I do not know that they would be of much value in that country; the most valuable drainage there, in the first instance, would be the drainage of lands which have hitherto been arable, which were never very well cultivated; they were always in a moist wet state.

6068. Is there already a sufficient outfall?
Yes; the country is not flat; it is a mountainous country, and rivers are running through it.

6069. Are there on Mr. Carter's estate any other means for the advantageous employment of the population besides those of an agricultural character?
None, except fishing.

6070. Do they grow flax in the country?
Very little; hardly any.

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6071. Are there any minerals?
No.

6072. There is very little employment, except in agricultural pursuits, for the population?
Very small employment indeed, except in agricultural pursuits.

6073. Supposing, as is the fact, that a farmer in England would consider himself a loser, were he to employ in continual labour more than five men to 100 acres, what are you to do on Mr. Carter's estate, where you have only 2,500 acres of arable land and 5,000 inhabitants?
Supposing that to be the case, you must, of course, get rid of the inhabitants in some way.

6074. Therefore, if ever a really good system of farming was introduced, and agriculture was much improved in that country, it would be absolutely necessary to find other means of employment, or to get rid of four-fifths of the inhabitants?
I think so.

6075. Has there been any emigration from Mr. Carter's property?
Not very much; the people are very poor; it requires some few pounds to take the people away, and they have not generally got the means; many who had the means, have gone away.

6076. Is the fishery upon the estate attended to?
It is attended to merely by the fishermen upon the coast; it is a deep sea fishery for cod and ling and turbot, &c.

6077. Has it been productive?
No, it has not been very productive; the Board of Works have been trying for some time to encourage it; but the great fault with regard to the fishery is the want of a market.

6078. Are the people supplied with boats?
No; the Quakers gave some assistance in the last year or two.

6079. Even if more fish were caught, do you think, at present, there is a deficiency of market?
There is.

6080. What is the price that fish fetches in that part?
Any fish which they can salt can be sent away; but fresh fish, such as turbot, may be had at a very small price indeed; I suppose a good turbot may be had for 6*d.* or 8*d.*

6081. With reference to a question that was put to you just now, by a Noble Lord, as to the number of inhabitants on a certain estate, and the number of acres to which their labour might be applicable, he spoke of 2,000 acres and 5,000 inhabitants, inferring that the proportion of inhabitants to the number of acres was five times as great as is supposed to be the case in England; did you mean to speak of 5,000 inhabitants or 5,000 working men?
Only of 5,000 inhabitants.

6082. Both those statements, as to the number of families and as to the number of acres, are understood to be on a reduced estimate?
Yes.

6083. It is not true, then, that the proportion is as 5 to 1?
No, it is 1,000 families, not 5,000 families.

6084. What is your opinion as to the future prospects of that country, if this year should be a favourable year as respects the harvest; what will be the effect in the country?
There will be very little harvest in any event; nothing is sown.

6085. But, if I understand the tenor of your evidence correctly, it would be very profitable to till that land, and sow such crops now?
I think it would.

6086. What

6086. What crops would you sow at this period of the year?
Turnips will be a better crop, probably, than potatoes; potatoes are a very dangerous crop.

6087. If the crops had been sown earlier, you think it would have been a profitable cultivation?
I think it would.

6088. Do you believe, at the present time, that those few farmers who retain their farms are preparing their ground for potatoes?
All who have seed certainly are.

6089. Do you believe that many have seed in proportion to the whole number?
Very few.

6090. The potato crop totally failed in the country, did not it, last year?
It did; any potatoes that were planted early did pretty well; but any that were planted at all late quite failed.

6091. Have you any suggestions to offer to the Committee for the alteration or improvement of the existing Poor Law?
That is a very difficult thing to do. I think in a country like Erris, which is as I have described it, it would be a great improvement if pauper labour were not laid out in the way it has been laid out, if it were not expended utterly unprofitably. Instead of people being employed in breaking stones upon roads, which will be of no use if things go on as they are going on, it would be much better if they were employed in cultivating land in some way. I think it would be a great improvement if the Commissioners of the Poor Law were enabled to take land, and to employ paupers in its cultivation, with a view to raising food for their support, and so far relieving the country from taxation.

6092. How many persons did you say were now receiving relief?
There are 5,961 persons receiving out-door relief in those two divisions.

6093. Is it your opinion that the able-bodied persons among that number should be employed in raising food for their sustenance?
Out of that 5,961 persons, probably there are not more than 1,000 able-bodied persons. Those 1,000, I think, might be very well employed in that way; they might be set to work to cultivate 200 or 300 acres of land.

6094. Are the persons receiving out-door relief employed in breaking stones?
They are supposed to be.

6095. Do you recommend the employment of pauper labour in the cultivation of land as a permanent system?
No; rather to relieve the country from a great weight, while it is recovering, than as a permanent system. I think it is likely if the supply of paupers were taken a good deal off the country, the country might recover in the course of time.

6096. Will you explain how the persons receiving out-door relief are employed in breaking stones; do they break stones at their own houses, which are afterwards measured to them, or do they repair to the Poor-house, and break them in the Poor-house, retiring to their own houses at night?
They are employed in gangs. There are overseers and stewards who have different stations assigned to them in the district; and the people receiving out-door relief have to repair to those particular places from their own houses every morning, and they remain there breaking stones under the inspection of the overseer.

6097. What is done with those stones; are they sold to road contractors, or to gentry, or are they sent away?
They are lying there; there are no gentry to buy them; I have not heard of their being sold.

6098. Would not the employment of able-bodied labourers in agricultural pursuits tend to diminish the little disinclination they may still have to a state of pauperism?
I do not think it would.

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6099. Would not such employment be much less distasteful to them than breaking stones, or other occupations of that sort?

It would have one good effect, it would teach them, perhaps, a better system of agriculture than they are acquainted with at present.

6100. Do you contemplate, in that proposition, any rent being paid to the proprietors of the land which they would be called on to cultivate?

I should think so. I think the Commissioners ought to come to some terms with the proprietors by which they would get possession of a portion of the soil for the purposes of the Union.

6101. Is there any other suggestion which you are desirous of offering to the Committee?

I am not aware that I have any other.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till Friday next, One o'clock.

Die Lunæ, 2° Aprilis 1849.

The EARL OF ST. GERMANS in the Chair.

Captain RICHARD THOMAS FARREN is called in, and examined as follows:

6102. YOU are Temporary Inspector of the Castlebar Union?
I am.

6103. How long have you held that appointment?
Since November 1847.

6104. Were you previously employed in the administration of the Poor Law?
Not in the Poor Law.

6105. Under the Relief Commission?
Yes.

6106. What is the number of paupers who now receive out-door relief in the Union of which you have the inspection?
The number authorized to receive out-door relief, for the week ending the 31st of March, was 14,745.

6107. Of those, how many were able-bodied?
Able-bodied and their families 5,465.

6108. Is that number increasing or diminishing?
Increasing.

6109. Does the administration of out-door relief tend, in your opinion, in Castlebar Union, to prevent the able-bodied poor from seeking employment?
I think not.

6110. You think that no man who can find employment will apply for out-door relief?
I think there is not sufficient employment.

6111. Do you think that it tends to prevent their seeking for employment?
I scarcely think that they would prefer out-door relief, as it is at present administered, to employment, if they could get it.

6112. You think it is not sufficient in quantity to induce them to rely upon it in preference to other means of subsistence?
Nor sufficiently agreeable; I think they would prefer to live by employment, if they could get it.

6113. What is the quantity of food now given?
A pound for every adult, and half a pound under nine years of age.

6114. Of Indian meal?
Indian meal, or rye meal, or barley meal.

6115. Is it cooked or uncooked?
Uncooked at present.

6116. Where is this meal obtained; is it the produce of the country?
A portion of the rye may be, but the Indian meal is not.

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6117. Is there any rye meal imported?
I am not prepared to say positively, but I believe a portion of it is imported.

6118. Of course all the Indian meal is imported?
Yes.

6119. What proportion of the population who are receiving relief is fed with the Indian meal?
It varies; in some months the contract will be Indian meal; at other periods it will be rye meal or barley meal, whichever happens to be the cheapest.

6120. What has been the amount of rate struck in your Union the last 12 months?
The last rate struck was in November and December 1848. The total amount of rate was 8,393*l.* 17*s.* 2¾*d.*, added to the permanent arrear of the former rate, amounting to 3,858*l.* 11*s.* 10½*d.*, making altogether 12,252*l.* 9*s.* 1¼*d.*

6121. How much of that has been collected?
To the 25th of March 1849, 4,068*l.* 8*s.* 8¾*d.*

6122. Leaving an arrear of how much?
£.8,184. 0*s.* 4½*d.*

6123. How much of that do you consider to be recoverable?
It is difficult to say; I am not prepared to state any particular amount; a considerable portion of it was an arrear of former rate, viz. 3,858*l.*

6124. Have the Guardians already taken measures to enforce the collection, as far as they could do so with prudence and discretion?
They appear to be doing so.

6125. Are there Vice-Guardians at Castlebar?
There are.

6126. Unconnected with the district?
Yes.

6127. Are there a great many appeals pending against the rate?
There are.

6128. When those appeals are decided, probably the rates will be paid?
I do not know.

6129. Do you think that all those appeals will fail?
I hope not.

6130. You stated that on March the 31st there are upwards of 14,000 individuals receiving out-door relief in the Castlebar Union; that, of course, does not include the in-door paupers?
No.

6131. What will be the amount of the two together?
The Workhouse accommodation is calculated for 1,490; say 1,500.

6132. So that together there are nearly 16,000 persons receiving relief?
Yes.

6133. Will you be good enough to tell the Committee whether there has been a progressive increase in the number of applications for relief since Christmas last?
Yes.

6134. To what extent?
I can state the numbers for every week, if the Committee wish.

6135. Take the last four weeks?
On the 22d of February the numbers who applied for relief were 3,518.

6136. How many of those got relief?
Of those, 103 were ruled for admission to the Workhouse, 1,501 were placed on the out-door relief lists, and 1,914 were rejected; in that week there were also cancelled, *i. e.* struck off the list, 299. On the 1st of March the number of applicants amounted to 2,652, of whom 112 were ruled for the Workhouse, 1,550 were placed on the out-door relief lists, and 990 were rejected; in that week

week there were 582 cancelled. On the 8th of March the number of applicants amounted to 1,855, of whom there were admitted to the Workhouse 192, placed on the out-door relief lists 1,134, rejected 529, and the number cancelled 42. On the 15th of March the number of applicants amounted to 1,268, of whom there were ruled for the Workhouse 230, placed on the out-door relief lists 710, rejected 328, cancelled 206. On March 12, 1,769 applied; ruled for the Workhouse 433; placed on the out-door relief list 703; rejected 633; cancelled 120.

6137. What was the number on the relief list on the 22d of March?
Fourteen thousand seven hundred and forty-five.

6138. What do you mean by "cancelled"?
Struck off the out-door relief lists.

6139. Will you be good enough to tell the Committee whether the relief list on the 31st of March 1849 exceeds the relief list on the 31st of March 1848?
It is less.

6140. By how many?
The numbers I have are 17,752 for the corresponding week in 1848.

6141. Is that 17,752 including the in-relief?
No, exclusive; this is taking the out-door relief of this year, and comparing it with the out-door relief of last year.

6142. Can you state the gross number of in and out-door, on the 31st of March last year?
There were 771 in the Workhouse on the 1st April last year, and now the numbers are about 1,500.

6143. Do you expect an increase upon the present numbers between this time and harvest?
Yes.

6144. To what extent?
It is difficult to state the precise amount; but 5,000, at least, to July.

6145. Will you be good enough to tell the Committee what was the largest number of in and out-door paupers receiving relief during any one week of last Summer?
It was either 26,000 or 27,000.

6146. What is the population of the Union of Castlebar, by the census of 1841?
Sixty-one thousand and sixty-three.

6147. Has the population sensibly decreased since that time?
I think so.

6148. To what extent, do you believe?
I have a Return relative to the births and deaths during certain years in one Electoral Division, which would furnish data for the calculation for the Union, but this Return is not here.

6149. Do you believe that it has decreased to the amount of one-fourth?
I think not so much as that.

6150. Will you be good enough to tell the Committee whether you believe that a great deal of imposition has been practised by the applicants for relief?
I think a great deal of imposition is attempted.

6151. But not successfully?
I think the measures have been successful in meeting these attempts, to a very great extent, and I shall be happy to detail the measures that have been taken, if the Committee wish.

6152. Will you state the nature of the impositions, and then state the precautions that have been taken against them?
The nature of the impositions was this, that many people who had land and means, cattle and so forth, applied for out-door relief.

6153. Are there many cases in which certificates have been given by persons

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in a respectable situation of life that the applicants were deserving of relief, whereas, in fact, they possessed means of their own?

Certificates have been given that they were destitute people, and it has been found that they were not destitute; that they were in the possession of land. But at the present moment I am not prepared to give any particular cases.

6154. Have you known certificates given by proprietors, by middle-men, and by agents of middle-men, stating that the parties had given up their land, when they had not?

I cannot recall any case at this moment to my recollection, but I have no doubt that it has occurred.

6155. Have you received any assistance on the part of the clergy in the detection of that imposition?

Yes; the clergymen frequently attend the revision of the relief lists.

6156. Have they frequently told you of cases of persons receiving relief who were not fairly entitled to it?

The general cause of their visit is to advocate the cases of applicants for relief.

6157. But you do not receive from the clergy assistance in checking the relief list?

I am not prepared to say that we do.

6158. Are you aware that the clergy are restricted, by Act of Parliament, from being members of the Board of Guardians?

They are.

6159. Do they assist you at all in checking the relief lists?

They have attended at the meetings, but I cannot recall to my mind any particular cases.

6160. What was their object in attending those meetings?

I now recollect one of the Vice-Guardians having informed me, that at the last meeting at Addergoole the Roman-catholic clergyman did attend, and he pointed out cases in the list of persons who brought more children than belonged to them; he pointed out those children, and stated that they did not belong to them.

6161. The borrowing of children is not a very uncommon occurrence?

That is one of the impositions incidental to this mode of relief.

6162. Is the assumption of the character of a widow, also, another imposition?

Yes.

6163. When relief is first given to widows, is not there apparently an extraordinary mortality amongst husbands?

A great many widows appear.

6164. A great many more than people had been aware of?

Yes.

6165. Do you avail yourselves of the assistance of the police in acquiring information, and in checking abuse?

No, we had not the opportunity, except in one instance.

6166. Do not you believe that the police could be of essential service to you in that respect?

Their local knowledge might be of service.

6167. Of which you have not as yet availed yourselves?

Only in one instance; there is no power or authority to obtain it.

6168. Can you give the Committee any reason why the Guardians do not avail themselves of the perfect information of the police?

They have no authority to call upon the police for their assistance.

6169. Is it in consequence of any orders from the police authorities that they should give no such assistance?

I do not see how, practically, the Vice-Guardians can call upon them for their assistance, inasmuch as the applications for relief are made through the

Relieving

Relieving Officers, who are bound by law to inquire, and who report the case to the Board of Guardians. With regard to the revisions of the relief lists, notices are published, prior to each meeting, requesting that all persons interested in the district will attend; so that the police, if they feel disposed, may attend the Guardians, but the Guardians have no power to call upon them to do so.

6170. Do not you believe that the police have a perfect knowledge of the whole of the population within the district?
I understand that the police keep a book, called "The Householders' Book," and I presume that from that book they would have a perfect knowledge of all the people in the district, inasmuch as they register the names of the householders in that book.

6171. Then, if directions were given to the police to furnish to the Guardians all the information in their power, that would, no doubt, contribute very extensively to checking abuse?
I think they would assist in checking abuse.

6172. But hitherto no use whatever has been made of their information?
No, with one exception.

6173. From the experience which you have had of the Castlebar Union, will you tell the Committee what opinion you entertain of the Relieving Officers you have in that Union?
Some of them I consider to be very efficient.

6174. Without naming them, will you state what proportion of them are efficient?
Upwards of one-half.

6175. Of the present Relieving Officers?
Yes.

6176. You were obliged to remove a great many?
Yes, particularly at the commencement of the out-door relief system.

6177. For what cause?
They were quite incompetent; some of them could not keep their books; and the information which they gave with regard to the condition and circumstances of the applicants for relief was not satisfactory.

6178. Were they inclined to relieve persons who ought not to receive relief?
The pressure was so very great upon them, that it was almost impossible for them to make proper inquiry into the circumstances of the people seeking relief; the pressure was enormous; on some occasions 4,000 or 5,000 persons applied for relief in one week.

6179. When you state to the Committee that so large a number as nearly half the population of the Union were receiving relief in the month of July last, is it not your belief that a very great number of those persons must have been holding more land than a quarter of an acre, and, therefore, were not legally qualified for relief?
Some of them, no doubt, were receiving relief, holding land, because some were struck off on that account; but whether or not a great proportion were so situated I cannot say.

6180. From your knowledge of the Union, do you believe that there is so large a number as half the population of the Union holding so little as a quarter of an acre of land?
I think so now.

6181. Do you think it was so in the month of July last?
I am not prepared to state that; it is a question which I never went into very closely, and I could not answer it directly; I am sure that some of them were, but as to the number I could not state.

6182. In short, you believe that out of the number of 27,000, there were persons receiving relief who were not legally entitled to it?
I do think so.

6183. Have you known instances of persons in the Castlebar Union disposing

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of their stock and passing through the Workhouse for the purpose of entitling themselves to out-door relief during the whole of the Winter?

I am not aware of the fact; I should like to add, with reference to this subject (to show that those abuses were met), that a great number of persons were struck off every week since the out-door relief commenced. The Returns (A.) and (B.) show the number of applicants for relief in each week of the year ended 29th September 1848, and the half-year ended 25th March 1849, respectively, also how they were disposed of, and the number of persons struck off the relief lists during those periods.

(A.)

CASTLEBAR UNION.

STATEMENT, showing the Number of APPLICANTS who sought Relief in each Week during the Period commencing 20th November 1847, and ending 28th September 1848, and how they were disposed of; also the Total Number authorized to receive Out-door Relief in each Week succeeding that in which the Board was held, and the Number struck off the Out-door Relief Lists.

Date of Board Day.	Number of Applicants.	How disposed of.			Total Number authorized to receive Out-door Relief in the Week succeeding each Board Day.	Number struck off the Out-door Relief Lists.
		Admitted to Workhouse.	Placed on Out-door Relief.	Rejected, refused the Workhouse, or did not appear.		
1847:						
November 20	not known	70	- -	- -	34	—
„ 27	not known	47	48	- -	115	—
December 4	408	23	327	58	472	—
„ 11	1,469	37	1,425	7	1,919	57
„ 18	3,270	41	1,322	1,907	3,301	—
„ 27	4,007	- -	3,400	607	6,821	—
1848:						
January 1	2,469	110	173	2,186	6,798	203
„ 8	1,799	35	1,532	232	8,401	—
„ 15	3,510	36	3,221	253	11,358	264
„ 22	1,741	32	1,424	285	12,450	353
„ 29	2,113	13	1,416	684	13,148	339
February 5	1,918	29	1,411	478	14,287	354
„ 12	1,963	9	1,821	133	14,968	460
„ 19	1,091	49	955	92	16,340	45
„ 26	1,389	59	846	484	17,602	190
March 4	1,389	193	488	698	17,717	41
„ 11	1,702	52	1,201	449	18,954	282
„ 18	1,359	39	822	498	19,923	111
„ 25	1,028	28	545	455	17,752	2,147
April 1	988	70	547	371	18,160	138
„ 8	1,088	47	600	441	18,492	452
„ 15	1,233	69	351	813	18,532	508
„ 22	1,047	91	413	543	18,629	275
„ 29	1,004	113	521	370	19,126	148
May 6	1,061	104	702	255	19,607	179
„ 13	1,154	88	744	322	20,343	48
„ 18	650	39	404	207	20,720	45
„ 25	641	62	173	406	20,642	235
June 1	1,324	143	797	384	21,110	224
„ 8	2,626	141	1,465	1,020	22,690	59
„ 15	5,160	46	2,093	3,021	24,662	100
„ 22	4,411	86	2,052	2,273	25,956	197
„ 29	4,729	65	1,550	3,114	27,017	367
July 6	2,952	202	287	2,463	24,922	3,041
„ 13	1,050	104	356	590	24,898	409
„ 20	902	229	322	351	25,032	253
„ 27	960	233	327	400	24,843	557
August 3	622	242	170	210	22,645	2,345
„ 10	588	313	72	203	21,297	1,354
„ 17	450	172	109	169	15,129	6,239
„ 24	648	124	73	451	14,180	1,006
„ 31	582	46	54	482	7,895	6,259

STATEMENT, showing the Number of Applicants who sought Relief in each Week, &c.—*continued.*

Date of Board Day.	Number of Applicants.	How disposed of.			Total Number authorized to receive Out-door Relief in the Week succeeding each Board Day.	Number struck off the Out-door Relief Lists.
		Admitted to Workhouse.	Placed on Out-door Relief.	Rejected, refused the Workhouse, or did not appear.		
1848:						
September 7 - -	1,188	409	306	473	7,914	751
„ 14 - -	2,946	181	699	2,066	7,684	850
„ 21 - -	1,892	86	233	1,573	7,742	193
„ 28 - -	2,231	176	663	1,392	8,313	118
TOTAL - - -	76,752	4,593	38,460	33,970		31,196
Half-year ended 25th March 1848 - -	32,625	902	22,377	9,507		4,846
Half-year ended 29th September 1848 -	44,127	3,691	16,083	24,463		26,350

(B.)

CASTLEBAR UNION.

STATEMENT, showing the Number of APPLICANTS who sought Relief in each Week during the Half-year ended 25th March 1849, and how they were disposed of; also the Total Number authorized to receive Out-door Relief in each Week succeeding that in which the Board was held, and the Number struck off the Out-door Relief Lists.

Date of Board Day.	Number of Applicants.	How disposed of.			Total Number authorized to receive Out-door Relief in the Week succeeding each Board Day.	Number struck off the Out-door Relief Lists.
		Admitted to Workhouse.	Placed on Out-door Relief Lists.	Rejected, or did not appear.		
1848:						
October 5 - -	2,378	209	1,033	1,136	9,413	29
„ 12 - -	3,050	128	796	2,126	9,605	537
„ 19 - -	1,503	33	318	1,152	9,114	809
„ 26 - -	981	122	82	777	8,694	493
November 2 - -	1,171	79	144	948	8,684	140
„ 9 - -	842	64	94	684	8,643	157
„ 16 - -	638	59	61	518	8,308	201
„ 23 - -	626	32	79	515	8,114	364
„ 30 - -	1,110	419	114	577	7,973	278
December 7 - -	1,312	172	389	751	8,112	381
„ 14 - -	1,350	210	308	832	8,397	168
„ 21 - -	1,227	263	251	713	8,550	244
„ 30 - -	623	179	57	387	8,480	291
1849:						
January 4 - -	1,062	157	287	618	8,601	305
„ 11 - -	1,511	104	548	859	9,244	103
„ 18 - -	2,222	247	641	1,334	10,079	26
„ 25 - -	1,790	336	451	1,003	10,756	34
February 1 - -	2,270	58	368	1,844	11,135	42
„ 8 - -	2,345	69	419	1,857	11,056	603
„ 15 - -	2,466	56	1,083	1,327	12,098	41
„ 22 - -	3,518	103	1,501	1,914	13,296	299
March 1 - -	2,652	112	1,550	990	13,056	582
„ 8 - -	1,855	192	1,134	529	13,581	42
„ 15 - -	* 1,268	230	710	328	14,141	206
„ 22 - -	* 1,769	433	703	633	14,745	120
TOTAL - - -	42,539	4,066	13,121	25,352		6,495

* The applicants for 15 and 22 March are stated for nine Electoral Divisions only, but the Numbers authorized to receive Out-door Relief are stated for the whole Union.

6184. Does not the number of persons struck off show the inefficiency of the Relieving Officers?

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No; the difficulties are so immense, that I think the cleverest person in the world could not meet the attempts at imposition; it is only by constant investigation, numerous inquiries, and meetings of the Vice-Guardians, that those abuses can be checked.

6185. Do the Relieving Officers act for more than one Electoral Division?
No; part of one Electoral Division is added to another; there are ten Electoral Divisions, and ten Relieving Officers.

6186. In the Castlebar Union are you in the habit of calling upon the rate-payers to assist you in checking the relief lists?
Yes.

6187. Do you meet with any assistance generally from them?
I am happy to say there is a feeling springing up in favour of assisting the Guardians, and I can prove it by the returns I have here. One of the principa. means of checking abuses adopted by the Vice-Guardians, was by holding meetings in each Electoral Division, for the purpose of revising the out-door relief lists; and before holding those meetings, advertisements, stating the day and place, and date at which those meetings were to be held in each Electoral Division, and requesting the rate-payers and every person interested in the district to attend, were published in the local newspapers, and posted in the Electoral Divisions, and sent to the rate-payers. There have been four of those revisions in the Castlebar Union; with reference to the last two, a series of meetings were held between the 8th of November 1848 and the 3d of January 1849: at those meetings 78 rate-payers attended. The total number of individuals struck off the out-door lists was 2,020, of whom 372 were cancelled on the objections of the rate-payers, 855 were ordered to the Workhouse by the Vice-Guardians, and the remainder, 773, were struck off for non-appearance, *i. e.* not having attended, deaths and other causes.

6188. At this meeting did many of the rate-payers attend?
Seventy-eight rate-payers in the whole Union attended. The attendance varied from 1 to 6, 12, 15, and the highest amounted to 19.

6189. In short, the Guardians receive more assistance at the present time from the rate-payers in checking the lists, than they have been in the habit of doing?
Yes; I wish to mention the last revision, to show that a feeling is spreading, which I think an advantageous one.

6190. Nevertheless it has happened that one individual has successfully passed three times in one day for relief, has she not?
I am not aware of such a fact; the last revision was held between the 26th of February and the 13th of March; the number of rate-payers who attended was 96. In one Electoral Division there was no rate-payer present; nobody attended in the Castlebar Electoral Division. The attendance in the Electoral Divisions varied from 3 to 10, 12, 17, and 22; the total number who attended was 96. The number of persons struck off amounted to 1,311, of which 209 were struck off on objections raised by the rate-payers, 331 were ordered to the Workhouse by the Vice-Guardians, and the remainder, 771, were struck off as not having appeared, deaths, and other causes.

6191. Do the paupers prefer out-door relief, restricted, as you describe it to be, to one pound of meal per day, to admission to the Workhouse, with a superior diet?
They prefer out-door relief.

6192. Have you, in your jurisdiction, any auxiliary Workhouses?
Yes.

6193. Are any of those Workhouses distant from the central Workhouse; and are they buildings that were originally erected for other purposes, and not appropriated for Workhouses?
For other purposes.

6194. Are you enabled to maintain the same classification, discipline, order and cleanliness in those auxiliary Workhouses, that you can in a Workhouse which has been expressly built for the purposes of the Poor Law?
Yes, in those at Castlebar.

6195. What

6195. What kind of system of government do you introduce in order to secure in the auxiliary Workhouses that good system of discipline that you have in the central Workhouse?
The classes removed at Castlebar are the female children; they occupy one building, and the able-bodied men sleep in the other.

6196. Are the able-bodied men kept in the Workhouse that was originally built for their reception, or are they placed in the auxiliary Workhouse?
In the auxiliary Workhouse.

6197. How are you enabled to maintain discipline amongst the able-bodied men?
There are persons appointed to take charge of the building and the men, and the latter are called upon to work at the main house.

6198. Is it in the town of Castlebar that the auxiliary Workhouse is?
Both are in the town of Castlebar.

6199. Which do you consider would afford the better check and test to pauperism, the discipline and regularity of a well-managed Workhouse, or the disordered condition, even with worse fare, of an ill-managed Workhouse?
No doubt a well-managed Workhouse is a greater test.

6200. And a more humane test at the same time?
No doubt of it.

6201. Should you have any confidence in the application of the Workhouse as a test for destitution for the able-bodied, if it were removed to a considerable distance from the Board of Guardians, and if it were in a remote position?
I think it is more advantageous that it should be near the Vice-Guardians, so that it may have the advantage of their superintendence.

6202. Will you state what the title of your office is?
Temporary Poor Law Inspector.

6203. Will you describe the functions which you are called upon to perform; what is the responsibility with which you are charged?
To assist the Vice-Guardians generally in their duties, but not to interfere in the details of those duties.

6204. Do they refer to you upon any matters of principle?
Generally; and I assist them with my advice.

6205. You are not concerned in the management of any other Union but that of Castlebar?
No.

6206. To whom do you report?
To the Poor Law Commissioners.

6207. Is not there an officer intermediate between you and the Poor Law Commissioners?
The permanent Inspector of the district; but his duties do not clash with mine.

6208. Will you describe the relative duties of the two functionaries?
His duties are precisely the same, but I make my report direct to the Poor Law Commissioners, and he does the same; I perform, in the Union, the same duties that he performs for the whole district, comprising a number of Unions; the minutes and proceedings of the Vice-Guardians all go to the Poor Law Commissioners, and are forwarded to him for his advice and opinion before they are disposed of.

6209. Then your position is that of assessor to a particular Board of Guardians?
I have the particular charge of one Union, with the same powers as the permanent Inspector, but confined to one Union.

6210. In respect to Castlebar, supposing an order issued by the Poor Law Commissioners, would that pass through Mr. Burke, the General Inspector of that district, or would it go through you?

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Orders come direct from the Poor Law Commissioners to the Vice-Guardians; they do not pass through the Inspectors at all.

6211. Not in any case?
No.

6212. Supposing any direction to be given by the Poor Law Commissioners in Dublin, through either of the Inspectors, for the purpose of reaching the Vice-Guardians; would that be given through Mr. Burke, or through you?
The communication with the Guardians is through the Clerk of the Union direct; but the Poor Law Commissioners might write to me to request that I would bring a certain matter under the consideration of the Vice-Guardians.

6213. Are your functions entirely independent and concurrent with those of the permanent Inspector?
Quite so, but confined to one Union; the minutes go to him for advice; I am present generally when the minutes are disposed of.

6214. You mean the minutes of the Vice-Guardians?
Yes.

6215. Who has the superintendence of the Relieving Officers?
They are all under the Vice-Guardians.

6216. Are your reports periodical?
Weekly.

6217. Are they made with or without the knowledge of the Vice-Guardians?
Without, entirely.

6218. You stated just now that you were directed not particularly to interfere with the management of the Vice-Guardians?
I do not think I am authorized to interfere with them; if I see anything going wrong, of course it is my duty to point it out, and to set it right.

6219. Is it not the fact that any question of rates, or any other question relating to the management of the Union, is never disposed of by the Vice-Guardians without a specific application to yourself?
That rests entirely with the Guardians; if they choose to apply to me for my advice and opinion, I am happy to give it.

6220. Is it not the fact that the Castlebar Vice-Guardians have no voice and come to no decision whatever without your previous concurrence and assent?
I should be sorry to say that the Vice-Guardians could not come to a decision without consulting me.

6221. The question is, what is the practice at Castlebar?
The practice is, that when my advice is asked, I give it.

6222. And that it is generally asked?
Generally.

6223. Are your communications with the Commissioners public or private?
Entirely public.

6224. What do you mean by "public"?
Official.

6225. You are acquainted with the original valuation of the Union of Castlebar?
I know that there was an original valuation.

6226. Have you not made yourself acquainted with the state of that valuation?
I have not examined it closely.

6227. Are you aware that previous to the dissolution of the Board of elected Guardians, a revision of that valuation was going on?
There have been several revisions of it; I have a note of them, and I can give all the revisions; a Reviser of the applotment of the rate in Castlebar Union was appointed on the 18th of January 1845; there has been no new valuation of the Union; they have always been revisions; that revision was adopted on the 17th of May 1845; in the ensuing year, on the 27th of June 1846, a Reviser was again appointed to revise the applotment of the valuation of the Union, and to have the same

same finished within three months from that date, under a penalty of 70*l.*; a period of upwards of a year elapsed; at a meeting of the Vice-Guardians, held on the 17th of July 1847, the late Board having been dissolved, the Clerk having informed the Board that the said revision has not been received, or been presented, it was ordered, that the Clerk do apply to the Reviser now for said revision, and all papers connected therewith. At a meeting of the Vice-Guardians, held on the 19th of July 1847, the Reviser, having been written to by the Clerk, attended the Board, when the Chairman read to him the minutes of the 17th of June 1846, and demanded his revision; and it is stated on the minutes that he made a promise of delivering it; when requested at once to bring the book forward in the state it was, he refused. The minutes go on to say, in consequence of the Reviser not having fulfilled his engagement, and it being imperatively necessary to proceed with the completion of the rate-books, the Board orders the Clerk to proceed forthwith.

6228. Was a rate struck in the Autumn of 1847?
Yes.

6229. Upon the old valuation?
Yes; and that was the cause of it.

6230. Subsequently to the rate of 1847 was there a revision?
Yes.

6231. By whom was that revision made?
By Mr. M'Arthur.

6232. By whom was Mr. M'Arthur appointed?
By the Vice-Guardians.

6233. At whose recommendation?
I do not know.

6234. Was it at the recommendation of the Commissioners?
I think not.

6235. Did the Vice-Guardians advertise for a Reviser?
It is my strong impression that they did; they advertised in the "Dublin Advertiser," as well as the local newspapers.

6236. And the last rate was struck upon the revision of Mr. M'Arthur?
Yes, it was.

6237. Can you tell the Committee whether there have been a great many appeals against that rate?
There have.

6238. To what extent?
Seven hundred and seventeen items of rate were objected to, and also five townlands, in which the numbers of items were not stated.

6239. Some of those appeals have been already heard?
Yes, I think they have; I think the case of Mr. Valentine O'Connor Blake has been heard.

6240. Were those appeals successful or not?
They have not been decided; they have been postponed; there was a question raised, as I understand.

6241. The other appeals are postponed to the next Session?
In the case that I allude to the Barrister gave his decision pending the point that was raised; but the appeal was not decided; I mean in Mr. O'Connor Blake's case. I understood this; I was not there.

6242. Was counsel employed by the Vice-Guardians to defend the rate-book on the Castlebar appeals?
I do not know; I know that counsel was there; but whether counsel was employed by the Vice-Guardians, I cannot say.

6243. Were you in the Court-house at Castlebar when the appeals were heard?
I was not; they were not heard, except in the instance I have mentioned.

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6244. Were you in the Court-house at Castlebar when Mr. Blake's appeal was heard?
I was not; I was in court when the question was raised whether the appeals should be heard or not; but they were not heard when I was present.

6245. Can you state to the Committee whether Mr. O'Donnell, the Barrister, was not acting in defence of the rate-book?
Mr. O'Donnell was there, evidently assisting his brother. The time when I was in court was when the Westport cases were going on. Then he was acting with his brother; but whether he was retained by the Vice-Guardians I cannot say.

6246. You were in court at the time of the hearing of the Westport appeals?
I was in court during a portion of the time.

6247. And you state that Mr. O'Donnell, the Barrister, was assisting Mr. O'Donnell, the Attorney, at that hearing?
It appeared to be so, whilst I was in court.

6248. Does Mr. O'Donnell, to your knowledge, act as attorney to the Westport Guardians?
Yes.

6249. Was not every sort of legal difficulty thrown in the way of those parties who appealed?
I cannot say that; I was in court when the Marquis of Sligo's appeals were heard.

6250. To your knowledge, is it, or is it not, the practice to throw every possible legal difficulty in the way of the appellants?
I cannot say that it is.

6251. Are you a lawyer?
No.

6252. Have any instructions been received by you from the Commissioners with respect to those appeals?
I do not remember any.

6253. Are you acquainted with the rate-books of Castlebar?
Yes, I have seen them.

6254. Is it the custom in the Union to give the names of the occupiers of the different holdings under 4*l.* a-year?
In the last rate-books the names were not in.

6255. Did that alteration of the rate-books take place by any orders from the Commissioners?
Not that I am ware of.

6256. There is no map of the different Electoral Divisions in the Castlebar Union?
No, nothing but a small index map.

6257. Then to what do the different numbers refer?
They are connected with the old rate-books and the old valuation-books; the new numbers are connected with the old ones; the old numbers are put in the new valuation-books; the old numbers are put in the margin, so that the two may be connected.

6258. Is it your belief that in every instance it is easy to discover who are the different occupiers?
Yes; because the old collecting-books had the names of all the occupiers, and whenever that information is required they can be produced.

6259. Do you know the townland of Aughadrina, near Castlebar?
Yes.

6260. When did the last revision take place there?
It was in October and November, I think.

6261. Do

6261. Do not you know that all the different divisions and subdivisions of land in that townland had been removed previously to the revision?
I do not know of my own knowledge, but I have been informed so; I do not know what the divisions were.

6262. Did the Reviser allow all those divisions and subdivisions to continue in his revised book?
I cannot say; I have not examined the book since.

6263. Is there any appeal pending upon that subject?
I have a list of the appeals here: here is No. 15, "Over-valued; ought to have been valued as a whole," under the name of my Lord Lucan.

6264. Can you tell the Committee whether the valuation of that townland was increased or diminished by the last revision?
I do not know.

6265. Is it not the fact, that that townland forms part of two Electoral Divisions?
I cannot say.

6266. If such were the case, would it not be contrary to law?
I am not quite acquainted with the law upon the subject, but I believe that it would be unusual to divide a townland.

6267. You cannot tell the Committee whether the occupiers' names were withheld by an order from the Commissioners, or by an order from the Vice-Guardians, or by an order from yourself?
There was no order given by me.

6268. Then it was done by the Reviser, without the sanction of any other authority?
I told the Reviser that I thought it was not necessary to enter in the revision book the names of the occupiers when the immediate lessor was rated, because the Reviser was called upon to revise certain items of rate, which were handed to him; he intended to give in those items of his revision complete in lists; but I thought, and I suggested to the Vice-Guardians, that it would be more desirable that he should have the whole complete in each book; it appeared to me, that as it was only a revision, it was not necessary, and that it was not usual; but I have since thought that I was wrong; it was no order of mine, but a suggestion, and a wrong opinion.

6269. Will you tell the Committee in what you were wrong?
Because I believe it is usual to do so, though on reference to the Poor Law Act, there is no clause in the Act stating that the occupiers' names should be there.

6270. Then your present opinion is, that it is necessary to put in the occupiers' names?
That it is advisable.

6271. But not necessary?
It is advisable to do it, but I do not know that it is illegal not to do it; there is no law for it.

6272. Then are the Committee to understand, that it was after reference to you that the Reviser withheld the names of the different occupiers?
Yes; it was my opinion that it was not necessary, under the circumstances of the revision being a partial one, only embracing certain items of rate.

6273. In giving that opinion, you had no authority from the Commissioners to give such an opinion?
Certainly not.

6274. Are you acquainted with the state of the funds of the Westport Union?
No.

6275. Will you be good enough to tell the Committee whether there has been any large increase of the amount of the salaries of the officers of the Castlebar Union?
There has been an increase.

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6276. Can you tell the Committee what was the amount of the salaries when the Vice-Guardians were appointed, and what is the present amount of the salaries?
I cannot; I have not that information here.

6277. But you believe that the increase has been considerable?
I know that the Doctor's salary was increased, and that the Master's salary is higher, and the Matron's; and there have been some assistant-officers appointed.

6278. Do you believe that the whole amount of the salaries is three times what it was in the time of the elected Guardians?
I cannot say.

6279. You cannot say that it is not?
I do not believe that it is, but I cannot say positively.

6280. In the Appendix to the Eighth Series of Papers relating to the Proceedings for the Relief of the Distress, published by the Poor Law Commissioners, in the "Statement showing in detail the Amounts and Proportions of the several Heads of the Expenses incurred in each Union during the year ended 29th September 1848," there is a sum of 500*l.* charged as law expenses incurred in the Union of Castlebar; can you explain how so large an amount of expense came to be incurred in that Union for law expenses?
I am unable to explain it; I do not know of what the sum is composed.

6281. Are you aware of the Guardians of Castlebar Union having been subject to law expenses and demands; have not legal proceedings been taken against them?
In many cases.

6282. Have not legal proceedings been taken against them on the part of the contractors and persons to whom they were liable for supplies furnished?
Yes.

6283. In more cases than one?
Yes.

6284. Have not the effects of the Castlebar Union been seized under an execution, and sold?
Yes.

6285. How are the Union provided then; have they recovered, in any way, possession of the articles which were so seized and sold?
Yes; an arrangement was made; a portion of the rate came in, about that time, 200*l.*, which was given; and then 50 per cent. of the rate, as collected, was paid afterwards to the person who put the execution into the house, until his claim was liquidated, and by that means the debt was paid.

6286. Are not the Vice-Guardians, at the present moment, subject to the payment of hire for some portion of their furniture?
No.

6287. Have not they been?
For a short time they were.

6288. For a short time they had to pay hire for the use of what had been their own furniture?
Yes; till the debt was liquidated.

6289. It appears that the debt of the Castlebar Union in September 1847 was 4,362*l.*, and that in September 1848 it amounted to 5,273*l.* Will you tell the Committee what the amount of the debt has been at the latest period for which you have an account of it?
A memorandum of the debt on the 3d of March was given to me, and it is stated to be 8,965*l.*; but whether that is the correct amount, or not, I do not know, because the accounts are not made up.

6290. Assuming

6290. Assuming that it was so, the debt has increased from 5,273*l.* in September 1848, to the sum which you have stated, in March 1849?
Yes.

6291. Can you state what was the actual amount of the rate that was paid in, up to September last, for that year?
It was 4,216*l.*; and that exceeded, by 800*l.*, the total amount of rate ever collected in the Castlebar Union up to the previous year.

6292. Will you have the goodness to state what the total expenditure was for that year?
£. 27,008. 6*s.* 8*d.*

6293. Therefore the expenditure was 21,690*l.* beyond the resources of the Union last year?
It was.

6294. Was there any deficiency of legal power on the part of the paid Guardians, to collect the rate, or was there any want of exertion on their part to collect as much as they could?
I think there was no want of exertion on the part of the Vice-Guardians, but the difficulties of collection were very great.

6295. What did those difficulties arise from?
There were difficulties encountered from the occupiers and immediate lessors; and, in addition, there was only one collector. Nobody at first would take the collection of the Union; the Vice-Guardians were obliged to advertise for a long time before they could get any person to take it; and the person they got was the barony cess collector.

6296. Supposing there had been a better system of collection, do you think that more would have been collected in Castlebar?
I think more could have been collected in the Union.

6297. To any considerable extent?
I think there was ability to meet a larger amount of rate than was collected.

6298. Do you think there was ability to pay, to any extent, that would have supplied the 21,000*l.* that was deficient?
No, certainly not.

6299. Could any possible amount of collection that could have taken place in that Union have supplied the wants of the Union that year?
No.

6300. You mean, that if everything had been sold up that could have been laid hold of in the way of moveable property, there would have been adequate means for meeting the pauperism of that Union?
I think there might have been sufficient in the Union to meet it, but the amount could not have been raised in sufficient time to feed the people. But when I say that more could have been collected, I do not mean from the rate, but I mean from the whole property of the Union; I understood the question to allude to that.

6301. Supposing that in that year neither rent nor cess had been paid, do you believe that you could have collected rates sufficient to relieve the pauperism of the Union?
No, I do not; I do not think that the resources of the Union were sufficient to meet it by rates.

6302. You mentioned that the cess collector was the person who collected the rate; have you reason to know which of those two descriptions of rate he was most interested or most anxious to collect?
The Vice-Guardians imagined that he neglected them, for the sake of the county, and I have understood that the county also supposed that he paid more attention to the Vice-Guardians.

6303. Are you not aware that at the present moment there is a considerable amount of county-rate still remaining outstanding?
There is.

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6304. In page 14 of the papers before the Committee (8th series) there is a letter of yours of the 22d of January 1849, in which you made a report of the state of Castlebar at that time; can you state what the valuation of the Union was, according to the last revision, and what additional rate in the pound would be necessary to realise the amount to provide for the Union till August?

I made the calculation, and it came to 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound.

6305. In your report you state that as an additional rate; will you inform the Committee what the rate has been to which that 6*s.* 8*d.* would be an addition?

Three shillings and four-pence.

6306. Is that 3*s.* 4*d.* on the average, or would it amount to a much higher amount of poundage in certain cases than in others?

That is 3*s.* 4*d.* in each Electoral Division.

6307. Will you have the goodness to state whether there are not much higher amounts of rates in particular divisions?

Not this year; in each Electoral Division it will be 3*s.* 4 *d.* in the pound.

6308. Then what is the meaning of this passage, where you state that "6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound will be necessary to realise the amount so required, making, with the one now in course of collection, 10*s.* in the pound, and in many cases 13*s.* and 15*s.*, as one-fourth of the present collection and upwards is composed of arrears of rates varying from 3*s.* to 5*s.* in the pound"?

Because a portion of the rate now under collection consists of arrears of the former rates, to the amount of 3,800*l.*; now that amount of arrears arises from rates varying from 3*s.* 1½*d.* to 5*s.* in the pound; so that in those cases if you recovered the arrear, there would be 5*s.* and also 3*s.* 4*d.* and 6*s.* 8*d.*

6309. Can you state, from your acquaintance with the Union of which you have charge, whether there are any Electoral Divisions within that Union which, in your judgment, are capable of paying those rates of 10*s.*, 13*s.* and 15*s.*, as stated?

I think not.

6310. Supposing there had been no assistance given by funds *ab extra* last year, could the poor of Castlebar, under the mere operation of the Poor Law itself, have been supported?

No, they must have died.

6311. To any considerable extent?

Hundreds, thousands perhaps.

6312. Then the Committee can only consider the Poor Law in that Union as having failed in its intention, unless it had been aided by extra funds?

It was most efficient as machinery for relief, the most efficient yet devised for meeting the famine.

6313. Would the machinery have been of any possible use without food for the people?

Certainly not.

6314. It would not have provided food for the people?

No; as a machinery for relief it has been most efficient; what I wish to convey is, that the relief administered by means of the Poor Law, assistance being afforded from other sources besides the rates, has been the most efficient and the least expensive mode yet adopted for meeting the famine; and I produce a statement (C.) contrasting the cost of labour afforded as relief under the Public Works Act, and of rations under the Temporary Relief Act, in the year ended 29 September 1847, with the expenditure for food issued as out-door relief under the Poor Law in the year ended 29 September 1848.

(C.)

CASTLEBAR UNION.

STATEMENT showing the COST of OUT-DOOR RELIEF (not including Salaries and Establishment) under the Poor Law during the Year ended 29 September 1848; and the EXPENDITURE for LABOUR (not including Salaries &c.) under the PUBLIC WORKS ACT, and of Rations (also exclusive of Salaries) under the TEMPORARY RELIEF ACT, during the Year ended 29 September 1847.

1847: Cost of Labour under Public Works Act, and of Food under Temporary Relief Act.	£.	s.	d.	1848: Cost of Food for Out-Door Relief under the Poor Law.	£.	s.	d.	Difference between Cost of Out-Door Relief under Poor Law, and Expenditure under Public Works and Temporary Relief Act.	£.	s.	d.
Expenditure for Labour, being the amount of pay-sheets, (not including salaries) in the Barony of Carra, under the Public Works Act, from 7 October 1846 to 8 June 1847 - - -	49,380	–	–	Cost of Food issued to persons receiving Out-Door Relief, during the year ended 29 September 1848 -	19,930	6	6¼				
Expenditure incurred for Rations (not including Salaries) under the Temporary Relief Act, from 8 May 1847 to 12 September 1847 - -	22,457	8	4	Add, Cost of Rations issued to children attending the Schools - -	2,680	–					
TOTAL under Public Works, and Temporary Relief Acts 1847 - -	71,837	8	4	TOTAL for Out-Door Relief and Schools 1848 - - -	22,610	6	6¼		49,227	1	9¾

	£.	s.	d.
TOTAL Expenditure for Labour &c., Public Works and Temporary Relief Acts, year ended 29 September 1847 - - - - - - - - - -	71,837	8	4
Total Expenditure for Food, Out-Door Relief, under Poor Law, and Rations to Schools, year ended 29 September 1848 - - - - - - - -	22,610	6	6¼
Difference in favour of Out-Door Relief under the Poor Law - - -	£. 49,227	1	9¾

6315. Do you think that it could be relied upon as an adequate remedy to cope with the distress of the country during the present year, unless funds were provided *ab extra*?

Not in the Castlebar Union.

6316. Are there any single Electoral Divisions of that Union in which you could by possibility raise a 2*s.* Union rate in aid of the more distressed Electoral Divisions?

I think not.

6317. What is the state of the stock in your Union; do you think there is as much stock or agricultural moveables to answer the demand for rates this year as there was last?

I think not.

6318. Do you think that the condition of the gentry and the farmers is better or worse?

Worse.

6319. Do you think that as much demand for labour will be found in the Union this year as there was the last?

There was very little demand last year.

6320. Do you think it will be greater or less this year?

I think it will be less, except in some localities near the town of Castlebar.

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6321. Is the amount of waste land this year greater or less than it was last?
I think greater.

6322. The condition of the farming classes is worse?
I think so.

6323. Is the condition of the proprietors of land better or worse?
Worse.

6324. Viewing all these matters together, have you any doubt that the pressure of destitution this year will be greater than it was last?
Not the slightest.

6325. Are there not landed proprietors now employing labourers by the aid of grants under the Land Improvement Act, which were not in operation last year?
I am not aware; I know that some are now employing labourers with grants, but there were some last year also.

6326. Do you not think that the amount of employment labour under that head is greater this year than it was last year?
I am not prepared to say; I do not know the funds that have been obtained.

6327. Are not the people worse clad than they were previously, and have they not been obliged to put greater quantities of clothes into pawn?
I think they are worse clad, although on market-days one sees very little difference; but I think last year the number of pledges diminished instead of increased, probably from want of value.

6328. In the state of things you have described, with a greater pressure of distress, a greater number of persons applying for relief, and less natural employment, from the great increase of waste land, would it be possible to rely upon the existing Poor Law as an efficient means of relief during the year that is coming, without any adventitious help?
No.

6329. You would consider it not adequate for that purpose without adventitious help?
Not with local funds alone.

6330. How long have you been at Castlebar?
Upwards of two years.

6331. Has the population diminished considerably?
I think it has.

6332. What is the general condition of the people, say of the children, at the present moment?
Those who are brought to the Poor-house are very miserable in appearance.

6333. And very wretched?
Great numbers of them.

6334. Almost below the ordinary appearance of infant humanity?
Some are.

6335. Has the population diminished very much by any other causes besides death; has there been any emigration?
There has been emigration to a considerable extent.

6336. Has that emigration been carried on by the poor people themselves making efforts to go, or has it been anything of an assisted emigration?
It has been on the part of the people themselves, as far as I understand.

6337. They have in some instances got remittances from America, have they not?
Yes.

6338. Has there been an emigration of persons belonging to the class of farmers and shopkeepers, and those that one may consider as the smaller capitalists of the country?
Some of those are going; but it is principally amongst the holders of land.

6339. What

6339. What becomes of the land when they emigrate?
It falls into the possession of the landlord.

6340. Taking the class of people that are going, do you think that the country is better or worse for that species of emigration?
Those that have the means are leaving the country, and therefore the country, to a certain extent, will lose.

6341. Is it not clear, that if the capital which is removed bears a larger proportion to the whole of the capital than the numbers removed bear to the whole of the numbers, the condition of the labouring classes must be worse, through the medium of that emigration, rather than better?
Yes; but as to the small holders, those who held three or four acres of land, I do not know that the country loses very much by their going, because their farms would be consolidated.

6342. Do persons of that class form the chief proportion of those who emigrate?
I cannot say positively.

6343. You state, in your report, "The tide is flowing in the direction of emigration, and numbers are preparing to launch into the stream;" are not those persons who must possess a certain extent of means, at least, to leave the country?
A great many of them have.

6344. Is it your judgment that we can by possibility pass from being a potato-fed people to being a wheat or a corn-fed people, without very considerable improvements in agriculture?
The agriculture in that part of the country is exceedingly rude.

6345. Even if it were not in that condition, would it be possible to change the food of a country from the lowest and cheapest, and most abundant, to that which is raised with more difficulty, requiring more science and capital and labour, without a considerable improvement in the system of agriculture?
I think not.

6346. The land is very much subdivided, is not it?
It is.

6347. In your judgment, could any system of improved cultivation be introduced into that country sufficient to raise the people to be consumers of grain in the place of potatoes, as long as the present minute subdivisions of land continue, and that excess of population consequent upon the subdivision of the land?
Those causes act most injuriously.

6348. Then in those cases in which that subdivision takes place, do not you conceive that emigration, not of the owners of capital, but of the labouring class who are not possessed of capital, but possessed of those small allotments of land, is it a necessary condition to raising them from being a potato-fed population to being a grain-fed population?
In some districts it might be so; but I think in the Castlebar Union there is plenty of room for all the labourers who are there, if the land was properly tilled, and if there was capital to employ them.

6349. Have you heard of capitalists looking out or land in the Castlebar Union?
I saw an advertisement in the Castlebar paper just before I left, "Required, 1,000 acres of land in one Electoral Division, capable of agricultural improvement."

6350. Was it understood in the country from whom the advertisement came?
No; it was in the paper.

6351. Was it not from 1,000 to 3,000 acres that was required?
I do not remember.

6352. If there be a prospect of continuing rates such as you have spoken of, amounting

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amounting to 13*s.* or 15*s.* in the pound, do you think it possible for any capitalist to engage in the improvement of those lands?
It would be a great obstacle.

6353. Do you think it a fatal one; should you engage in it yourself?
No, I think not.

6354. Do you observe on the part of the landed proprietors an anxious desire to increase the size of farms, in consequence of the abandonment of the land by those small holders who are emigrating?
I think it is going on in some districts, but in many instances the land is not tilled; it is still waste, and it is being let to other holders, not on a very large scale.

6355. Do you mean that you do not perceive, either on the part of the adjacent tenantry or on the part of the proprietors, a disposition at present to avail themselves of that opportunity of enlarging the farms?
I think there is a disposition, but not in every instance.

6356. Generally speaking, in that part of the Union from which the emigration is proceeding, is that disposition shown?
Amongst some of the proprietors it is.

6357. Is it the exception where it is not so?
I think it is the exception where the land is thrown into very large farms, but I think the rule is to increase the farms to a certain extent.

6358. You think that prevails generally over the Union?
Where the proprietor has the means of doing it.

6359. Is there generally a disposition to avail themselves of the opportunity of increasing the size of the farms?
Where they have the means, but they have not all the means.

6360. Where there is an inclination shown by occupiers to increase their farms, do you think they possess sufficient capital in order to cultivate the additional quantity of land?
Not generally.

6361. On the part of large farmers do you see any improvement in the system of agriculture?
There are very few large farmers in that Union; my Lord Lucan is the only one I know in the Castlebar Union.

6362. Has there not been a very great decrease in the number of small holdings in the Castlebar Union?
Yes.

6363. To what extent do you suppose?
I could not say till the next revision is completed.

6364. You stated that there was a revision of the Castlebar Union in the Autumn of 1848; is there another revision going on at the present time?
No; a Reviser is advertised for, and I hope before this time appointed.

6365. Then it is the intention of the Vice-Guardians to have another revision at the present time?
Yes.

6366. What is the cause of this revision following so immediately after the last?
The other was not considered satisfactory.

6367. Where lands are either taken up by ejectment, or revert to the proprietor, in consequence of their abandonment by the tenant, is it the custom to charge the rate upon those lands against the proprietor as the occupier?
I think so.

6368. And to charge the proprietor with all the arrears of the former tenant?
Yes.

6369. And that whether the land had been in lease or otherwise?
No, not if the immediate lessor was rated.

6370. Do

6370. Do you mean to say that, in the event of an occupier ceasing to occupy it, as a matter of course, without further evidence assumed, that the owner becomes the occupier?
The presumption is that he is the occupier.

6371. Supposing that there is a lease subsisting between the owner and the occupier who has left the land, are you not aware that the owner could not enter into possession of the lands or resume possession without legal process?
In that case the person who held the lease would be rated.

6372. Then if the presumption be that by reason of the cessation of the occupation the owner becomes the occupier, is not that presumption contrary to the law in the case, and has not it the effect of involving the owner in liabilities to which in law he is not necessarily subject?
In a case where the proprietor was not the immediate lessor, I presume, he would not be rated as occupier.

6373. But even supposing he was the immediate lessor, does it follow that, because the tenant ceases to occupy, the immediate lessor is entitled to resume possession?
No; I was wrong in stating that the proprietor would be the occupier; it would be the person who held the lease.

6374. Do not you make a distinction between ceasing to occupy and surrendering?
Certainly.

6375. If a party surrenders, and the owner accepts the surrender, he becomes the occupier; but if a party goes off without surrendering, upon what principle can the immediate lessor, who has not had a surrender of the land made to him, be held to be rateable as occupier?
I do not know that any question ever was raised upon that point in the Castlebar Union.

6376. Have you not made inquiries from the Relieving Officers with respect to the extent of waste lands?
Yes.

6377. It appears in your report that the extent of waste land this year is more than in the last. "In two Electoral Divisions it is said to be one-fourth more; in one, one-third more; in one, one-half more; in another, two-thirds more; in four others, twice as much." Now in those cases would the Poor Law Officers proceed to rate the immediate lessors, or the owners of those lands which are left waste, supposing the former occupiers of those lands to have quitted them?
The immediate lessor, I presume.

6378. In the event of the immediate lessor not having had any surrender made to him of those lands, would not that amount of rate so imposed upon him be a rate that he was not legally entitled to pay?
It would depend upon the question of surrender; I am not prepared to answer that question, but I presume it would.

6379. If he was not in occupation could you rate him, there being a lease against him?
The immediate lessor would be rated.

6380. Whom would you rate in the Castlebar Union next year with respect to those waste and unoccupied lands, the extent of which is augmenting?
I am not prepared to answer that question.

6381. Is it done under your direction?
No; the Vice-Guardians do not interfere in those matters. When a Reviser is appointed they call upon him to make his revision according to law, and he is responsible for it.

6382. What class of persons are the Revisers chosen from?
The person last appointed had completed, with the assistance of his brother, the revision of the Ballinasloe Union and part of the Kilkenny Union.

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6383. Was he a competent person?
I do not think his revision was satisfactory.

6384. Then it is the practice to consider the landlord the occupier of all lands of which a surrender has been accepted by the landlord?
I think so; where the land is surrendered to the landlord himself.

6385. Then the property of that landlord, situated wherever it may be, becomes liable for the rates and for the arrears of rates upon those lands?
It has been the custom, where the occupier is rated, to bring forward the arrear opposite the name of the person who is rated as the next occupier; and if the land is surrendered to the proprietor, he being rated, the amount of the arrear would stand against his name.

6386. Does not the property of the landlord, wherever it may be situated, become liable for those arrears of rates due by the preceding tenant?
Not unless the case is brought before a Justice of the Peace, and his decree given.

6387. Would not the order, if they apply to the Justice of the Peace, be an order against the proprietor's personal property?
The decree, if given by the Magistrate, would be against the property; it rests with the collector to take this course or not.

6388. If those lands were waste, would it not be the positive duty of the Collector to take proceedings against the landlord himself?
It would be his duty to recover the rate by all the legal means in his power.

6389. Has that ever been done, to your knowledge, against a proprietor?
I am not prepared to say; I cannot remember a case.

6390. Can you doubt for a moment that it is done?
The collector would do it.

6391. Ought not the collector to do it?
The collector, I conceive, ought to use all the means in his power legally to enforce the rate.

6392. If the collector did not proceed against the personal property of the landlord in the way mentioned, he would be guilty of culpable neglect, would not he?
If he neglected any means at his disposal, he would.

6393. Therefore, the collector would, necessarily, in the discharge of his duty, apply for a warrant from the Justices of the District, and he would carry out that warrant in the search of that party's private property, situate wherever it might be?
He would serve the usual notice before he could obtain a decree.

6394. Will not these repeated revisions of the valuation in the Castlebar Union entail considerable expense upon the Castlebar Union?
I presume so.

6395. Can you state what the cost of the last revision amounted to?
£. 70, I believe.

6396. And that revision was not satisfactory?
It was not considered satisfactory.

6397. Have many proceedings been taken in the Castlebar Union in the Superior Courts, for the recovery of rates?
They are detailed in one of my reports; I cannot state the number now.

6398. There have been such taken?
There have been.

6399. Can you explain to the Committee what principle of discretion is acted upon by the Vice-Guardians in taking the course in certain cases of proceeding in the Superior Courts, rather than by local proceedings before the Assistant Barrister, or before a Magistrate?

Those

Those cases were placed in the hands of the Solicitor; I am not aware of many cases having been tried at the county assizes.

6400. According to what principle did the Vice-Guardians exercise their discretion as to the amount due from any individual, in preferring to go to the Superior Courts rather than to go to take the more cheap and expeditious mode of recovering the debt by going to a local court?

When a person does not reside in the county, it is not in the power of the Vice-Guardians to bring him into the local court; they must resort to a Superior Court.

6401. Have not there been cases in which parties residing within the district, and being within the jurisdiction of the local courts, have nevertheless been proceeded against in the Superior Courts?

There were two trials in the Castlebar Union, in both of which cases they were resident; one was a Peer of the Realm, the other was a landed proprietor.

6402. Will you explain upon what ground proceedings were taken in the Superior Courts, when under the Act of Parliament a remedy might have been found under the local jurisdiction of the Assistant Barrister?

I am not aware that in the case of a Peer of the Realm it was in the power of the Guardians to bring him into the local court.

6403. Are you not aware that there is no privilege which will exclude a proceeding before the Assistant Barrister?

In the Court of Appeal I know it is so.

6404. Was that proceeding against a Peer of the Realm taken under your direction?

Not by my direction.

6405. Was it done with your knowledge?

Perfectly; I stated what my impression was, and a preference was given to the Superior Court.

6406. Involving both parties in great expense and delay, when it might have been done in a local court?

I believe there is a paragraph in the instructions, recommending recourse to the Superior Courts.

6407. Is that from the Commissioners?

I think there is in the Collector's Manual a paragraph to that effect.

6408. Will you have the goodness to state that paragraph?

I have referred to the Collector's Manual, page 39, and find that the paragraph refers to proceedings against an immediate lessor, not resident; and the opinion of counsel was, that the court of proper jurisdiction was that of the Assistant Barrister of the county in which the landlord resided, Dublin—(the rate being due on property in Donegal); but as proceedings in the Civil Bill Court are liable to fail, in consequence of any slight technical irregularity, and as it would be necessary to bring up witnesses from the country, and thereby incur as much expense as if the action was brought in the Superior Court, proceedings in the Superior Court were recommended as being more certain in the result, and scarcely, if at all, more expensive.

6409. Were you till to-day under the impression that a Peer of the Realm could not be proceeded against before the Assistant Barrister?

It was my impression.

6410. If you had that impression, but still felt some doubt about it, why did not you, upon the occasion, when you were going to proceed against a Peer of the Realm, take a legal opinion upon the question?

I did not think it was necessary to do so. It did not strike me; and it was considered that proceedings in the Superior Court would be the most effectual course.

6411. Whose duty was it?

The Vice-Guardians make the application.

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6412. Do the Vice-Guardians take legal proceedings of that kind without consulting you?
No.

6413. When they consulted you upon that occasion, as you admit that you were in ignorance with regard to the question, why did not you take a legal opinion before you entered upon the proceeding?
I did not think it necessary: the other case was a person who resided in the country. The thing did not strike me particularly; my impression was, that they could not proceed against a Peer before the Assistant Barrister; but the question was not raised as to it, inasmuch as the other case, which was also tried in the court of Castlebar, and those which did not go to trial, were not affected by that consideration.

6414. Are the Committee to understand, that because you had another case which necessarily must come into the Superior Court, therefore you chose to involve with that case the case of the Peer of the Realm?
No, not at all; a question was put to me upon that subject by the Committee; and I stated just now what my impression was.

6415. Has the case of the Peer of the Realm been yet decided?
Yes, it has.

6416. Have the costs in that case yet been paid?
Not that I am aware of.

6417. Have the Vice-Guardians yet been supplied by the Solicitor with the amount of the costs?
Not that I am aware of.

6418. How was that case decided?
It was decided in favour of the Peer of the Realm. Objection No. 4, in the Paper (D.) having, on reference to the Court in Dublin, been decided against the Guardians.

(D.)

Castlebar Guardians *v.* The Earl of Lucan.

Verdict for Plaintiffs for sum demanded, 508 *l.* 0 *s.* 10 *d.*,

Subject to be reduced by any sum that Mr. O'Donel and Mr. Davis will decide before next November Term, that Lord Lucan has paid on account of the demand named in the declaration, and in case of their disagreeing, by the Officer of the Court of Queen's Bench, on same being referred to him by either of the parties.

Objections reserved.

1. No sufficient evidence that Clerk, who signed rate of 1847, was duly appointed, there being no sealed order produced to that effect.

2. No adoption of rate of 1847, in form prescribed by Commissioners under 1 & 2 Vict. chap. 92.

3. Chairman who signed rate of 1847, only signed as "Chairman," without stating of what he is Chairman.

4. That rate-book is not final and conclusive as against defendant, by his not having appealed within the time limited.

By consent of the parties, the verdict to be changed into a verdict for defendant, if the last objection be ruled by the Court above in his favour.

6419. Are the Vice-Guardians in the habit of consulting their Solicitor as to the mode of recovering the rate?
Cases were handed over to him, for him to recover it.

6420. Do not you believe that the Solicitor must have known that there was no privilege which exempted a Peer of the Realm from proceedings before the Assistant Barrister?
I presume that he knows what the law is. To take proceedings in the Superior Court was considered the most effectual course, and very important legal points were involved in these cases, particularly Objection No. 4.

6421. When you decided upon taking those proceedings in the Superior Court against a Peer of the Realm, did you notify it to the Commissioners, and receive their approbation to such proceedings?

In

In one of these books will be found the report upon that subject, and the Vice-Guardians made an application, and inserted the same, I think, on the minutes of their proceedings.

6422. In which the Commissioners sanctioned the proceeding?
I am not sure whether the answer is there, but I know that the report upon the subject is there.

6423. But you received an answer, and that answer justified your proceedings?
Yes, such is my impression.

6424. Was not the name of that Peer of the Realm included in a very long list of names?
It was.

6425. And the Commissioners assented to taking proceedings in the Superior Courts against the whole?
Yes, that is my impression, but if permitted to refer to the report and papers, I could state the result with greater accuracy.

6426. You state that you have been for more than two years in the Union of Castlebar; have you observed that the money in circulation in that Union has become either much scarcer or much more abundant latterly?
It is stated to be scarcer.

6427. Are not the prices of all produce lower now than they were three years ago?
Yes, prices are lower.

6428. Do you think that one of the causes of the prices of produce being lower, may be money being scarcer?
It may be so.

6429. If men have not money in their pockets to purchase a thing which they like to purchase, will not there be less competition?
It may be so.

6430. Are the Committee to understand that you are of opinion that money has become scarcer in the Union?
It is stated to be so; they complain of it.

6431. Are you of that opinion yourself?
I am.

6432. To what causes do you attribute the increased scarcity of money in those parts?
During a portion of the time that I was there, there was a great deal of money paid for public works that were going on, which put a great deal of money in circulation; of course that has ceased.

6433. That would not diminish the circulation?
No, but there has been less since; that was two years ago.

6434. After a large amount of money had been paid and put into circulation, you would suppose that a larger amount would have been in circulation, but it appears that money has become scarcer; can you attribute that to any particular cause?
They are obliged to purchase provisions, instead of selling them.

6435. But if those provisions were the produce of the country, that would not diminish the circulation?
But they are not the produce of the country.

6436. Where do those provisions come from?
Indian meal is the staple article of food, which is brought from America and other places.

6437. Where is that purchased?
I do not know from what foreign port it is brought.

6438. The Committee are to understand that a considerable portion of food

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is brought from abroad into this Union, which is obliged to be paid for, and that the money which is paid for it quits the country?
Yes, I presume it is so.

6439. Are you quite sure that the vessels which bring the corn take away a large quantity of the money of the country?
That is my impression.

6440. How do you know it?
It is my impression that a great deal of food is imported, and that it must be paid for.

6441. You say they take away the money of the country; have you any knowledge whether that foreign provision is paid for by bills of exchange upon London or somewhere else, or whether one single fraction of the money of the country is withdrawn for the purpose?
I am not prepared to say whether it is paid for by bills of exchange, or how, but it is paid for.

6442. Have bank notes become of late more abundant, or more scarce, in the part of Ireland from which you come?
I am not aware.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Mr. W. H. Lucas.

Mr. WILLIAM HENRY LUCAS is called in, and examined as follows:

6443. YOU have been the Vice-Guardian of the Galway Union?
I have; I am now Temporary Inspector of the Ballinrobe Union.

6444. How long have you held that office?
About a fortnight.

6445. You can speak better as to the Galway Union?
Yes, and Tuam; I was in Tuam for six months.

6446. All those Unions are under Vice-Guardians?
Yes.

6447. Is out-door relief administered in all of them?
In all the three Unions.

6448. To the able-bodied as well as to the aged and infirm?
We had a full order in force in Galway, and I think in Ballinrobe and Tuam; I am certain that in Galway there is a full order for out-door relief to the able-bodied of all classes.

6449. Has the Workhouse accommodation in all those Unions been extended to the utmost practicable amount?
In Tuam it has.

6450. Has ample Workhouse accommodation been provided in each of those Unions?
Yes.

6451. By hiring auxiliary Workhouses?
Yes.

6452. Can you state the number of persons receiving out-door relief in each of those Unions?
I think in Ballinrobe about 24,000; in Galway, on the 17th of March, there were 14,700 out of the Workhouse.

6453. And in the Workhouse?
Three thousand three hundred.

6454. How many in Tuam?
It is six months since I left Tuam; I do not know the number by the returns, but I think it is 15,000 on out-door relief.

6455. What

6455. What is the population of each of the Unions?
The population of Galway is 88,971; of Tuam, about 84,000 or 85,000; and of Ballinrobe, I think, about 75,000, according to the Census of 1841.

6456. Have you reason to believe that the population has materially diminished in any of those unions since that date?
I think it has.

6457. What was the number of paupers receiving out-door and in-door relief in the corresponding period of last year?
In the corresponding period of last year, in the Galway Union, it was 19,519 receiving out-door relief, with Workhouse accommodation for 1,275.

6458. What was the greatest number at any period in the last year receiving relief in the Galway Union?
About 34,000 in the month of July; in the month of March 19,500.

6459. Then the number increased very largely between March and July?
Yes.

6460. Have you reason to expect a similar result in the present year?
I have.

6461. Do you think that the result will be similar, or that it will be greater or less in the present year; do you think that the distress will be greater this year than it was in the last?
I think that the distress will be something greater this year, but I do not think that you will have the same number receiving relief in the Galway Union as you had last year?

6462. Is that from a better system of administration?
It is from increased Workhouse accommodation, and from the officers having become better acquainted with the system of out-door relief, and the Vice-Guardians having become better acquainted with it.

6463. Has any alteration been made in the discipline of the Workhouse during that time?
The discipline of the Workhouse is more strict now than it was last year.

6464. Is there increased vigilance in detecting imposition?
Yes.

6465. Has any more severe labour been required of the able-bodied?
In Tuam; we purchased a mill at Birmingham, and we have found it a very good test.

6466. Do you consider yourselves authorized to compel any work of that description to be performed by the inmates of the Workhouse?
Most assuredly, any description of work which they are capable of performing.

6467. You have stated that you think the destitution will be greater this year, but that the pressure for relief will be less, from the better system of administration of the Poor Law and the Workhouse arrangements; in what condition do you think the rateable property will stand this year, as compared with the last; will the power of paying the rate be as great or greater this year?
Last year the Galway Union was under the management of Vice-Guardians; we have collected a greater poundage this year than was collected last year.

6468. The question is prospective, looking to the year which will end in September 1849; do you conceive that the circumstances of the rateable property will admit of so large a collection this year as in the last?
I think quite as large, and if the potatoes should grow, we shall have a better chance of our rates.

6469. Does the chance of your rate depend upon the growth of the potatoes?
I think it does.

6470. In the event of a failure of the potatoes, and so that chance turning against you, what is the amount of rate which you propose to collect up to the 30th of September 1849?
In Galway we do not propose to make any rate during the summer, but to have a rate in the last week in August.

 6471. What

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6471. What is the amount of debt outstanding at the present moment for which your rates are liable?

When I left the Union the debt of the old Board was 7,000*l.*, and the Vice-Guardians have incurred about 5,000*l.*; out of that the rate has paid off, I suppose, 3,000*l.*, leaving a debt on the Union of about 8,000*l.*

6472. What do you estimate for your in-door and out-door relief, in addition to your debt, between this time and harvest?

My estimate from the 1st of March to the 1st of August was 24,000*l.*; that is increasing 500 a week on the out-door relief till the number amounted to 22,000, the maximum number, the maximum number last year being 34,000.

6473. Are there resources within the Union itself out of which you conceive that it will be possible to raise fund to pay that debt, and to supply the current expenses?

Not by rate, certainly.

6474. How much rate do you calculate to receive within that time?

I am afraid it would not be possible to collect any rate at the present time.

6475. Not to collect any rate between this time and harvest?

I am afraid not.

6476. How much have you in the Treasurer's hands?

We have nothing in the Treasurer's hands; we are living now by the advances made weekly by the Poor Law Commissioners on the estimates sent up by the Inspector.

6477. Then are the Committee to understand that you have this debt and the current expenses to provide for, and that you have no balance in your Treasurer's hands, except the balance of Government advanced, and no chance of collecting a rate between this time and harvest?

Except in the Electoral Division of Galway; the creditors put an execution into the house the other day; the Sheriff attended there for the sale of the goods, and as we saw no other means of paying the debts, we proposed to do it by laying a rate on the Electoral Division of Galway; we should get very little of the rate in the rural districts, but in the town we should be able to collect it.

6478. How much was it in the pound?

We proposed 2*s.*

6479. Were you able to collect it?

The question is not decided whether the rate will be made yet.

6480. The Union Workhouse is situated within that Electoral Division?

Yes.

6481. Are there a great number of the poor of the town of Galway in the Poor-house?

Not a greater proportion, according to the population, than of any other division.

6482. How much was the total amount of your expenditure last year up to September 1848, and how much of it was raised by rate, and how much was provided by funds *ab extra?*

I believe the collection of the rate last year did not exceed 7,000*l.* or 8,000*l.*

6483. And how much was your expenditure?

I do not know the precise sum obtained from the Government, but it was 25,000*l.* or 26,000*l.*, from the Government and the British Association.

6484. Having regard to the state of Galway in the last year, and the prospects of the present year, would it be possible for the poor of that Union to have been supported, through the medium of the Irish Poor Law Extension Act, without external funds?

I think it would not be possible.

6485. Then, as far as your experience in those two years goes, that Act would have been a failure for the support of the people if it had not been for the external aid?

Most assuredly; but I may mention that in Tuam Union we had no advances from

from the Government, except the sum of 5,000*l.* from the British Association, so that in a neighbouring Union to Galway we supported all our poor out of the poor-rates, except that 5,000*l.*

6486. Could you have got on without that 5,000*l.*?
I think if we had been placed in a position to make a rate immediately we came there we could have relieved the destitution without the 5,000*l.*

6487. What was the amount of that rate?
Three shillings in the pound on the net annual value; it was 14,000*l.*; we collected 10,000*l.*; our number of paupers was small in proportion to the population; our greatest number was 15,000 in Tuam.

6488. Is the population as dense in Tuam as it is in the Union of Galway?
I think the same.

6489. Then to what circumstances do you attribute the better condition of that Union?
The farmers are better off; they have larger farms; there is a portion of Connemara attached to the Galway Union, which is very pauperized; the farmers have no capital; they are on the rates themselves in Connemara. As an instance of that, there is the division of Oughterard; in a population of 10,600 persons I find that 70 per cent. were relieved last year, and the rate on that division alone would be 15*s.* 9*d.* in the pound; and in the division of Ballynacoortia, in the eastern part of the Union, I find that there were 20 per cent. of the population relieved, and the expenditure was only 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; so that the division of Ballynacoortia has a credit of 6*d.* in the pound upon the expenditure of the year in payment of its rates; that is the only division, except the island of Arran, where they have no paupers except two in the Workhouse, where they have a credit balance.

6490. How comes it to pass that in those islands they have no paupers; does the island of Arran constitute an Electoral Division separate and apart?
It does.

6491. Does it all belong to one proprietor, Mr. Digby?
I believe it does.

6492. Do you connect the want of pauperism in the island of Arran with the circumstance of its being a separate Electoral Division, belonging to one proprietor?
I think the flourishing state of Arran may be attributed to the fact of the potatoes not having failed there.

6493. Practically speaking, do you attach any importance to the inducements and motives for giving employment which exist on the part of the proprietor in relation to the working classes, in his neighbourhood, where he lives?
I do, great importance.

6494. Supposing an Electoral Division which is entirely or for the greater part the property of one individual, do you conceive that he has greater motives to employ labour than he would have if it were a large Electoral Division divided among many proprietors?
I do.

6495. Have any facts come within your knowledge which have led you to any conclusion as to the present state of Electoral Divisions forming an obstacle to the employment of the people by the proprietors?
In the Kanturk Union, of which I was a Vice-Guardian, the fact did come within my observation in the case of property belonging to Mr. Nicholas Leader. He obtained an immense sum of money under the Land Improvement Act, for the employment of the people, and he told me that, owing to the pressure of the poor-rates, he should be obliged to discharge all the people whom he had employed under the Land Improvement Act; that he could not carry it on; that he was the only person in the Electoral Division that gave general employment to the people.

6496. Supposing the Electoral Division were more approaching a Property

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Division, and confined to that one property, would he not have a greater inducement to employ the people upon his division?

I think he would have a much greater inducement.

6497. What is the rate struck upon the island of Arran, which has no paupers upon it?

The same as in the Electoral Divisions burdened with pauperism; the rate was struck before I arrived in Galway, and I signed the rate because it was to repay sums advanced by the Government under the temporary relief measures; that was the object of the 3*s.* rate; last year they paid 3*s.* in the pound; I believe Mr. Digby paid it all, or his agent, Mr. Thompson; this year they object to pay.

6498. Is it a similar equal rate this year as last year, on Arran?

Yes.

6499. So that the Island of Arran, though having no paupers, and being in a comparatively prosperous condition, has to pay the same share of rate as all the pauperized divisions?

The division of Arran has two paupers in the Workhouse, and it has its share of the establishment charges, which, of course, are heavy, owing to the state of the other divisions; the only charge made upon that division was for the support of two paupers; and the establishment charges and the fever hospitals which have been very expensive in the Galway Union.

6500. Then you give them credit for the balance, having called upon them to pay an equal rate with the other divisions?

Yes.

6501. Do you expect that they will derive, eventually, any benefit from that credit?

Yes.

6502. When?

At the striking of the next rate.

6503. Then you contemplate in striking the next rate to exempt Arran from any portion of it?

If their balance be sufficient in September to carry them on for the year's expenditure, we should not strike another rate on Arran.

6504. Is the 2*s.* rate that you propose to strike in the town of Galway, a rate in aid for the rural districts, or is the Electoral Division of Galway in debt?

The Electoral Division of Galway was in debt 7,000*l.*, and we propose to provide a 2*s.* rate for the payment of the most clamorous creditors' debts, to prevent the disposal of the Workhouse property.

6505. In defraying those debts, and freeing the Workhouse property, the Union of the town of Galway, in which the Workhouse is situated, has a great local pecuniary interest?

I should say so.

6506. Have legal proceedings been taken against the Union in any cases?

Ten writs have been issued, and two executions are in the hands of the sheriff.

6507. On behalf of what parties are those?

On behalf of Mr. Comerford, a merchant in Galway; he was, I believe, a member of the late Board; and on behalf of Mr. Mongan, a baker in the town, who supplied bread for the Workhouse.

6508. Have you been threatened with a discontinuance of the supplies of provisions, unless the debts to the contractor are paid?

We paid our present contractor out of the rates for four months, and then we paid him monthly; when his bill became due in February, we were not in a position to meet it, and we told him so; we told him our position, and we then made a representation to the Poor Law Commissioners, that we had collected as much rate as we possibly could; we collected 2*s.* 2*d.* in the pound, and we thought that the time had arrived when we must get some assistance from the Government, and they sent us 500*l.* to carry on the current expenses for a week;

week; and there came every week through the hands of the Inspector of the Union 600 *l.*

6509. What would have been the event, if you had not got that assistance, *ab extra?*
The relief must have stopped, and the people would have died, in hundreds, of starvation.

6510. Would the effects of the public, belonging to the Guardians, have been sold under an execution?
I think not.

6511. Why do you think that the contractors would not have proceeded to execution?
No person would purchase the Workhouse property; there has been a great deal of fever in the Workhouse, and no person would purchase the furniture, and things of that description.

6512. There was no other check to civil process but the apprehension of contagion?
I think not.

6513. But it would have been impossible for you to have carried on the system of relief but for the funds so sent to you *ab extra?*
In the Galway Union.

6514. From your past experience, and your knowledge of Ireland, do you regard the pressure of distress as going on advancing in an increasing ratio from the month of March up to the approach of the harvest?
Yes, to the first week in August, when they dig the new potatoes; that is my experience in all the Unions in which I have been.

6515. You said, that if external aid had not been given the people would have died; you were speaking, of course, of those who were receiving out-door relief?
Yes.

6516. What is, at present, the physical condition of the persons receiving out-door relief?
They are very deficient of clothing, and many of them are diseased; they have dysentery; if you put them on the relief list one week, you often find that they are dead next week; and the mortality in the Workhouses is very great, though, happily, it has not been so great in Galway as in some others.

6517. Is the relief administered in cooked food?
Not in cooked food, Indian meal.

6518. What is the allowance given to each individual?
One pound a day to adults and to children over nine, and half a pound a day to all children under nine.

6519. If an able-bodied man, in full health and vigour, falls upon the rates, and is obliged to be maintained by out-door relief, do you find that a pound of meal a day is sufficient to keep him in his previous state of health and vigour?
They improve on it, generally; they improve wonderfully when they come on the relief lists; I think they delay as long as they possibly can, dreading the Workhouse test, dreading that they will get tickets for the Workhouse.

6520. Then the condition of those who are not receiving relief is worse than the condition of those who are receiving relief?
They are generally in a worse condition before they apply; they get into better condition after they have been on the relief a fortnight or three weeks.

6521. Are they then in a condition to do a good hard day's work?
Many of them are.

6522. Do not you mix oatmeal sometimes with the Indian corn?
We do not; oatmeal is very dear, and Indian corn is very cheap.

6523. What is the price of Indian meal?
£.8. 10*s.* a ton; oatmeal is 12*l.* 10*s.*

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6524. What quantity has been usually consumed in a week in the out-door relief?
About 50 tons a week.

6525. That is at the rate of about 400*l.* a week?
About 400*l.* for Indian meal.

6526. Do those who are not assisted by relief consume the same description of food?
Yes; the independent labourers have the same description of food as the paupers; it is extremely cheap now.

6527. There must have been a very large importation of Indian corn into Galway?
Very large.

6528. Can you form any idea of the quantity that has been imported?
I cannot; but there is always plenty in the market; we find no difficulty whatever in obtaining a supply.

6529. Is it chiefly American and Mediterranean vessels that supply Galway?
Chiefly from America.

6530. Do those vessels that bring this Indian corn to Galway, when they return home, take any Irish produce in exchange?
I think not; they take principally emigrants.

6531. Do they take any gold?
They take money back, most assuredly.

6532. You are aware of that fact?
I am, from conversing with merchants and other people upon the subject; I think the cargoes are generally paid for in gold.

6533. In those Unions do they use rye as food for the poor?
They have been introducing rye in the Workhouses with which I have been connected, and we have found that it grows exceedingly well in the bogs, and produces very abundant crops; in one division in the Tuam Union, last year, they cultivated an immense quantity of rye, and we then introduced rye bread into the Workhouses; it is capital bread, made of rye and barley meal, and we give them fish-soup; we get fish very cheap, and I find that in those houses they are generally very healthy, more so than in the houses where they do not get the soup.

6534. Do you find a disposition on the part of the farmers, in consequence of the demand for rye, to cultivate it more generally than they did before?
I think it is more generally cultivated than it was before.

6535. Has it not the additional advantage of coming in at an earlier period, and therefore supplying food at a time when it is most wanted?
It has.

6536. Does not it thrive at a higher elevation, so as to admit of its cultivation under circumstances where wheat could not be profitably grown?
Most assuredly; it grows even in the bog, where wheat would not grow.

6537. Is there much rye grown in that country?
Very little rye is grown in the Galway Union; a good deal of rye is grown in some parts of the Tuam Union.

6538. Do you know what the comparative nutrition is of a pound of Indian meal, and of a pound of rye-meal?
I do not; but I think the rye-meal is much better of the two for the people.

6539. You say that fish is extremely cheap; is there a very large supply of fish?
There is a very large supply in the Galway market.

6540. Taken by the fishermen upon the coast?
Yes.

6541. Is there any remote market for the fish?

I think

I think not; the Quakers have established a curing-house in Galway now, and they are curing herrings, haddocks and other fish; they have a remote market, I believe.

6542. What has been the result of establishing that curing-house; has it been favourable as a speculation, so as to encourage individuals to embark in the same business?
I think it has increased the number of fishermen on the coast, to a certain extent; I think they feel more confidence that they will have a market for their fish when they come home; but it is on a very small scale.

6543. Is any fish cured and sent to a distance, or is it all consumed on the spot?
The fish cured there are sent to various parts of Ireland; Sligo and Dublin.

6544. By what conveyance?
By carts to Ballinasloe; then by boat by canal from Ballinasloe to the Railway Station to Mullingar, or on the Great Southern and Western Railway.

6545. If there were a rapid communication between Galway and Dublin, do you think a large quantity of fish would be sent by that conveyance?
Very large.

6546. Are there any turbot taken?
Very fine turbot.

6547. What is the usual market-price of turbot?
In Galway market you buy a turbot for 4*s*. 6*d*.; in Connemara, in the mountain villages, you get a turbot for 1*s* 6*d*. or 2*s*.

6548. What would be the freight of a turbot from Galway to Dublin?
You would have to send it by the mail; I dare say the mail would take it for 2*s*. or 2*s*. 6*d*. for one fish, or two or three fish.

6549. If the fish go by a slow conveyance, they cannot be very good when they arrive in Dublin?
No.

6550. If there was a rapid conveyance, it would be a great encouragement to the fishery?
I should say it would; they quarrel a great deal about the fishing; there is generally a steamer stationed there, to prevent murder.

6551. Practically speaking, is not it necessary to maintain a very efficient police, with respect to the fishermen in the Bay of Galway, to enable the fishing to be carried on?
I believe it is; I have generally seen a steamer stationed there.

6552. At what price per pound do you buy fish for the Workhouse?
We have a contract for various kinds of fish, such as haddock, pollack and cod, to be cleaned and sent to the Workhouse, for a halfpenny a pound.

6553. And soles?
There are a great quantity of soles, but not sufficient to make soup of; you can buy a pair of soles that weigh 6 lbs. for about 1*s*. 6*d*.

6554. Do you put Indian meal with the fish into the soup?
No Indian meal, but oatmeal, onions, pepper and turnips.

6555. Are there many turnips grown at the Workhouse?
In the neighbourhood of Galway there is a great quantity of turnips; we have a farm of 25 statute acres connected with the Galway Workhouse, under the 11th & 12th Vict., c. 26, to teach the boys an improved system of agriculture.

6556. You have adopted the system of agricultural instruction?
We have.

6557. Have you been satisfied with the results of it?
It has been in operation so short a time that I cannot answer that question; this is only the first year.

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6558. Do you anticipate good from it?
I do.

6559. Do not you find, under the existing system, considerable difficulty with respect to children who are brought up in your Workhouse getting employment as they advance to manhood?
Very great difficulty.

6560. Do not you think that that would be greatly lessened by the agricultural instruction which, under the 11th & 12th Vict., they are likely to receive?
I think so.

6561. When the late potato famine supervened, was not there found great difficulty among the farmers cultivating their crops, from the want of such agricultural instruction?
I should say so.

6562. Which difficulties the agricultural instruction provided under that statute will lessen, if not remove?
Exactly.

6563. As to Ballinrobe; will you have the goodness to inform the Committee the state of the finances of Ballinrobe; what was the amount of the debt on that Union in September 1848?
I believe Ballinrobe Union was never in debt very much; I believe the present Vice-Guardians owe about 4,000*l.*, and I believe that is the only debt which is on the Ballinrobe Union, and they will, I believe, be able to pay that 4,000*l.* from their rates.

6564. What amount of funds in hand have you?
Last week we had no money at all; the contractors refused to supply us, and I directly reported the circumstance to the Commissioners, and recommended the sum of 600*l.* to be sent down for the relief of the destitute in the Ballinrobe Union. It is in the same state as the Galway Union, except the debt.

6565. Have you had any legal proceedings taken against you in Ballinrobe?
I believe not.

6566. What is your estimate of the sum which may be required for that Union from the present time up to the period of harvest?
We have not been called on to make an estimate; I was not in the Ballinrobe Union when the estimates were furnished for the various Unions; I was in the Galway Union then.

6567. Have you now any amount of rate uncollected in the Ballinrobe Union which you expect to be able to raise between this and harvest?
We have.

6568. How much?
I have not been through the collector's accounts; I have only been there about three or four days; I was engaged at Tuam before I went there.

6569. It appears that last year the amount of the expenses, over and above the collection, or, in other words, the amount of help which was given to Ballinrobe, amounted to 29,120*l.*, the amount of rate collected being 8,533*l.*; do you believe that the poor of Ballinrobe could have been supported last year without that adventitious help coming in aid of the rate?
I should say not, most assuredly.

6570. Do you contemplate the possibility of the poor of that Union being supported between this and harvest without adventitious aid coming from some quarter or other?
I do not.

6571. Do you consider that the Poor Law Act in itself, without adventitious aid, is calculated to meet such exigencies as have occurred in the last two years?
Not in Unions like Ballinrobe and Galway; I may mention, that in the Kanturk Union, in the county of Cork, where we met with great success in carrying out the law, the destitution was very great; we found 25,000 persons on the lists when we arrived; the rates realized a sum of about 30,000*l.*, and we had no Government aid whatever.

6572. Are

6572. Are you aware of the present state of Kanturk Union, as contrasted with what it was when you left it?
I believe it is not in a worse state than when I left it.

6573. Has there been any considerable emigration going on there?
From Galway there has.

6574. What description of persons are going abroad now?
Principally small farmers.

6575. At their own expense?
Not at their own expense in every instance. The landlords are sending them out, in some instances; in other instances they are selling off what few things they have, and running away.

6576. Without paying the landlord?
Without paying the landlord or the poor-rate.

6577. In many instances are the emigrants taking away more money than they were accustomed to take?
I think they are.

6578. Do you apply that to the Union of Kanturk only?
To Galway, and the west.

6579. Do you think that the emigration of such persons of small capital from the country improves the condition of the country, or the reverse?
I think it will eventually improve the condition of the country.

6580. In what respect?
I think you will have large farms, and you will have men of capital, who will be able to give employment, and to pay the poor-rates.

6581. Does not that assume that large farmers and capitalists will bring into the country more capital than the emigrants have removed out of the country?
Most assuredly.

6582. Do you conceive that capital will be invested in those parts of the west with which you are acquainted, so long as the present amount of burden arising from the poor-rates either exists or is apprehended?
I am afraid not.

6583. Then even assuming that a maximum was imposed, which was beyond the probable amount of the rate collected, is it your opinion that fixing an amount that could not be exceeded would diminish the panic, and encourage the investment of capital?
I think it would. In the Galway Union they owe Government a sum equal to the net annual value of the property for one year; that is nearly 100,000*l.*; and I think no man would take land in that Union burthened with a debt of 100,000*l.*; they have no security that Government will not enforce it.

6584. If you impose a maximum rate, does not that imply that you must also fix a maximum of pauperism, if you mean that the rate shall be equal to maintain the paupers?
I would not allow the maximum rate to exceed a certain sum; in some divisions it would be required, in others it would not.

6585. How are you to fix a maximum rate, unless you have the power also to fix the maximum of pauperism?
You cannot fix any maximum of pauperism.

6586. Do not you mean, in speaking of a maximum rate, a sum beyond which some extraneous help must be looked for?
Yes.

6587. Do you mean a maximum Union rate, or a maximum Electoral Division rate?
A maximum Electoral Division rate. I think it is most desirable to individualize responsibility as far as possible; the Electoral Divisions in Galway are very large.

6588. Have you any opinion of what that maximum rate should be?

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In the Galway Union, I am afraid, the people would not be able to pay more than 3*s.* in the pound. In the better circumstanced districts there is less pauperism than in the pauperized districts.

6589. In respect to Ballinrobe, are there any Electoral Divisions in that Union which, in your judgment, after defraying the amount which might be required for the expense of their own Electoral Division poor, could contribute to an Union rate of 2*s.* in the pound, or 10 per cent. upon the valuations?

I speak of Galway. I think there are two divisions in the Galway Union which could do it, Ballynacoortia and Stradhally, or the Island of Arran.

6590. Is that the Island of Arran in which there is no pauperism, except the two persons who are now in the Workhouse?

Yes.

6591. The district which would be able to contribute to the pauperism of other districts is one which has no pauperism of its own?

Assuredly.

6592. Do you think that that is a state of things which would lead to any great contentment?

I do not think it would; the rate on Arran this year, if it had not been for the Government advances, would have been about 1*s.* in the pound, instead of 3*s.*; the rate next year, I apprehend, will be 4*d.* or 5*d.* in the pound, just for the support of those two paupers in the Workhouse and the establishment charges of the Union.

6593. Arran is in the possession of one single proprietor, and is an Electoral Division in itself, is it not?

It is; there are three islands.

6594. In those islands the potato crop did not fail?

I heard it had not failed; in fact, I know that seed from Arran, which is considered to be good seed, is sent to Connemara.

6595. Do you know what the acreage of those islands is?

No; the population is 3,521; the annual value is 2,073*l.*

6596. Have you any auxiliary Workhouses in Galway?

We have one building at a place called Oughterard.

6597. What is the distance?

Fourteen Irish miles.

6598. How do you contemplate providing for the discipline of that outlying Workhouse?

We must have an establishment of officers there.

6599. How shall you be able to secure the control of the Guardians?

The paid Guardians attend there once a week.

6600. Do you think the size of the Galway Union is in itself an obstacle to the due administration of the Poor Law?

I think it is.

6601. Should you recommend that it should be divided?

I should recommend that it should be; I think it is too large for any Vice-Guardians or Board of Guardians to manage; in some divisions they will have difficulty in getting elected Guardians.

6602. Would not there be a concurrent difficulty in ascertaining the facts of the cases of the paupers, so as to avoid imposition?

I think there must be; the outside station I had to visit was 30 Irish miles from Galway.

6603. Do you think it is possible to expect the regular attendance of elected Guardians in such a case?

I do not.

6604. Is it possible to expect the regular attendance of the Relieving Officers?

It is impossible for the Relieving Officers to attend every week.

6605. Could

6605. Could they attend those great distances without abandoning the duties which are imposed upon them of local investigation into the cases of the paupers applying for relief?
They could not attend at the Board of Guardians; they could attend the Vice-Guardians, if they went down to the islands and held their Boards there.

6606. What kind of roads have they?
The road from Galway to Costello, where there is a fishing-lodge, is pretty good, there is a contract on that road; from Costello-lodge there is no contract, and the road is very bad.

6607. Were there any works carried on on those roads under the Public Works Act?
They attempted a new line of road from Costello to Oughterard, which, if completed, would open up the whole of that country; one end of it extends five miles through the mountains and five miles at the other end; the intervening five miles being untouched.

6608. Is not the communication between those districts and Galway rather by sea than by land?
With the islands it is rather by sea; sometimes the Relieving Officers have to go by sea, and we do not see them for a week; they have occasionally to go into some harbour on the Clare side, so that it is exceedingly inconvenient.

6609. Besides the inconvenience to the Guardians and the Relieving Officers, does not the great extent of the Union cause great difficulty to the paupers in making applications?
I think not; under the present system our Relieving Officers live down in the islands, and we go there and hold our boards at the most convenient places for the parties to meet us.

6610. That is under the supposition of out-door relief being given?
Yes; the inconvenience attending the size of the Union is the distance of the Workhouse from those places; the people suffer great want in travelling in; we have to give them provisional relief to enable them to go to the Workhouse, and they sometimes die on the road, owing to the great distance they have to travel.

6611. Have there been many instances of deaths from that cause?
Very few this year; there were several last year.

6612. Arising entirely from the hardships encountered upon the journey?
It is stated so.

6613. Those great distances, in cases where no out-door relief is given, must be a bar to the application of the Workhouse as a mode of relieving destitution, and in cases in which out-door relief is given they must also be a bar to the use of the Workhouse as a test of destitution?
The auxiliary Workhouse at Oughterard will do away with the objection as to the size of the Union.

6614. That is only in progress?
It will be open, I hope, in a month.

6615. Are you building it?
It is being built at the expense of some funds which the Commissioners have placed at our disposal; they gave us 1,000*l.* to build it.

6616. How may inmates will it contain?
One thousand.

6617. How much is the amount it will cost?
One thousand pounds.

6618. Do you calculate upon being able to make provision for 1,000 persons at an expense of 1,000*l.*?
Yes, we do.

6619. Without hoping that we could provide Workhouse accommodation, in all instances, at an expense of 1*l.* per head, or 1,000*l.* for 1,000 inmates, have you any doubt that we could generally procure larger Workhouse accommodation than we now have at a less cost than was expended upon the old Workhouses?
Yes;

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Yes; the temporary Workhouse accommodation is not of such a nature that you can rely upon it.

6620. Supposing you had a permanent Workhouse now to build for 500 or 1,000 inmates, do not you think you could provide that Workhouse accommodation much cheaper than the rate at which the Workhouses of Galway, Ballinrobe and Kanturk have been hitherto built?

I do not think you could.

6621. Do you think it would be necessary to provide a sum equal to the sum which the former Workhouses cost, with a view to the establishment of new Workhouses?

With similar arrangements, I do.

6622. Do you think similar arrangements would be necessary if permanent Workhouses were provided, by a subdivision of the Unions and an increase of Workhouse accommodation?

I do; I think the arrangements are very good in the Irish Workhouses.

6623. Not beyond the expense which you reckon would be required?

Not beyond the expense of the original Workhouse.

6624. Do you think they are well built, as far as you are able to judge?

I think, taking everything into consideration, they are fairly built.

6625. Are they dry?

I have found them generally dry, though I have seen that the limestone of the country weeps a good deal; they are standing the test pretty well, I think, now, looking to the great number who are put into them.

6626. You are aware that since the failure of the potato crop the conacre system has been totally done away?

Not totally, but almost so.

6627. You are aware that one of the effects of the conacre system was that farmers employing labourers usually paid them by giving them a cabin, by giving them a certain quantity of potato land to till, and in some cases allowing them grazing for a certain number of sheep?

Yes, I am aware of that system.

6628. The arrangement which was made was this: a farmer engaging his labourer agreed to give him so much a day for his work, and, on the other hand, he was to charge the labourer for the cost of those things which have been already named?

Yes.

6629. At the end of the year, the custom was that there was a sort of balance struck on one side; credit was given to the labourer for the number of days' work he had given, and, on the other hand, he was charged with the amount of his cabin, the amount of potato land and the grazing of the sheep?

Yes.

6630. The balance being struck, whatever money might be due was paid over to the one party or to the other?

Yes.

6631. Now that this system is almost done away with, will not there be a larger amount of money required to be in circulation, in order to enable the farmer to pay the labourer by cash payments, instead of by the practice which previously existed?

There will be.

6632. Under those circumstances, ought there not to be a greater amount of money in circulation to meet that want, than previously?

There ought.

6633. Is that the case; is there now even the same amount of money in circulation as previously existed?

I should say there is not.

6634. Is not it your opinion, that this also is one of the causes of the great pressure

pressure which now exists in Ireland, and of the difficulty which the farmers have of giving employment to the labouring classes?

I should say it is so in a great measure, and it contributes, to a great extent, to the pauperism of the country; no farmers, with few exceptions, now pay their labourers in money wages; they give them what they call their "bit;" applications have been made to me, several times, for relief in aid of wages; they say, "I will employ the man, if you will relieve the wife and family."

6635. Does your experience enable you to offer any suggestions to the Committee for the modification or improvement of the existing Poor Law?

I think there should be an agricultural school attached to every Workhouse.

6636. Do you mean worked by paupers?

For youths, under 16 years of age, to be taught an improved system of agriculture.

6637. Would not the result of that be, that the pauper children would be infinitely better educated than the mass of the independent labourers' children?

I think so.

6638. Even including the education which is generally given in the National schools?

I would confine the education, in the agricultural schools, to orphans.

6639. Would you put them upon a higher class, as respects education, than the children of honest paupers who were disabled by infirmity or accident?

They would be put on a higher scale.

6640. Practically, does your experience of Ireland show you that a boy, taken from the labouring class, and educated in a manner superior to the children of other labourers, returns when his education is completed to the labouring class, and labours again better than the other labourers?

I do not think he does return.

6641. He seeks to enter into another class of employment?

He seeks to enter into another class.

6642. Therefore he abandons the class for which he has been educated?

I cannot say that: the education is really good in the agricultural school; it is quite sufficient to enable a man to take charge of a farm; he is taught agricultural chemistry, for example.

6643. A man who takes charge of a farm is in a different position to a labouring man?

Somewhat different.

6644. There is no doubt that an educated labourer is infinitely better than an uneducated labourer?

Most assuredly.

6645. Practically, is not it the case that the class which are educated better than the children of the labouring class do not return to labour, that is, do not labour manually; they no longer dig the ground?

My experience is not sufficient to enable me to answer the question; our agricultural school has been only in operation for six months.

6646. But you must have observed the progress of education in Ireland of late years; have not you observed that there has been great difficulty in inducing the sons of small farmers, who have been better educated than their parents and the rest of their family, to perform those duties which the uneducated part of the family do perform?

They seek for situations of all descriptions.

6647. Situations not as labourers?

Not as labourers, but as Stewards and Relieving Officers.

6648. In the change of food, which must be accomplished if the potato culture should not become again productive, is it not essential that an improved system of agriculture should take place?

I think it is.

6649. If there be an improved system of agriculture absolutely essential, will not

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not that create an immediate and necessary demand for persons qualified to engage in and to conduct that improved culture?
It will.

6650. Under the old potato system, was there any school that arose among the peasantry, that could teach the people the profitable culture of turnips, mangels, and other descriptions of food of that kind?
Not that I am aware of.

6651. Have you any doubt that if, as a consequence of the change from the potato to the corn culture, there should be a better description of farming introduced, there would be an immediate demand for farm-servants acquainted with the operations of husbandry, and capable of conducting them?
I think there would.

6652. In that increased demand which would be so produced, is it your opinion that there would be a means of absorbing that description of skilled labour which your agricultural school is likely to produce?
I think so.

6653. In the shape of farm-servants?
Yes, I think so, to a great extent.

6654. In the event of such farm-servants being required, and a supply of such farm-servants being furnished, would not the successful and industrious among those furnish, in their turn, the materials out of which you could select tenants for small farms?
I think they would.

6655. Do you think it would be right to make the rate-payers, in supporting the paupers, pay for the agricultural school by a poor-rate?
It is no expense, or very little expense; you have to keep orphan children in the workhouse; we keep them at school, and during so many hours we send them to agricultural pursuits; the only expense is an additional 100 *l.* a year for the services of an agriculturist, agricultural implements, and the supply of books; and I think the green crops we grow in our agricultural school will supply all our Workhouses with the materials for making soup, and save the expense of purchasing them.

6656. What extent of ground have you?
Twenty-five statute acres.

6657. Supposing those orphans to be kept without such training, is not the Union much more likely to be burdened with them as permanent paupers, than if they are trained to become desirable farm-servants?
Yes.

6658. Therefore, whatever the expense might be, within the limits you have described, it would be profitable and economical to the Union?
I do think so.

6659. Is that school going on now?
Yes; our Workhouses are filled with girls, varying from 6 to 15 years of age; I would send them all to the Colonies, I think; I have sent many out to Australia from different Unions in the West.

6660. Are the children which are in that school all lodged in the Galway Workhouse?
They are lodged at the school; the school is two miles from the Workhouse; out of 400 boys we select perhaps 120 for agricultural purposes.

6661. In that house there are no inmates but children?
Generally, only boys; there are a few able-bodied men.

6662. So that the Workhouse in Galway is entirely given to the paupers?
It is entirely given to able-bodied men and women; we have the girls in another house, and the boys in another house; we have a girls' school and a boys' school, and I have no doubt but that when the Workhouse accommodation is increased, we shall be able to diminish the numbers receiving out-door relief.

6663. Do you consider that the relief which is given at this moment in Galway is fully adequate to the pauperism of the Union?

We give some description of relief to every destitute person who applies; I have no doubt many persons refuse the Workhouse test, and that they suffer extreme privations from their obstinacy, owing to their dislike to a Workhouse; but you cannot tell the resources of the people unless you test them, and I find the more Workhouse accommodation we have, the less abuse there is, and the less out-door relief.

6664. Do not you require the strongest evidence that persons so applying, if able-bodied labourers, are unable to procure any sort of employment out of doors?

We generally ask the question of the Relieving Officer, whether he has applied to the farmers; I ask the pauper whom he has applied to, and he tells me; I ask the Relieving Officer if he knows the fact that a farmer has refused him work; we then offer him a ticket for the Workhouse, or put him on the out-door list. If his children were suffering from starvation, I should give him out-door relief; but if I thought it a case of imposition, I should give him a ticket for the Workhouse, knowing that he would never accept that description of relief. If the Workhouse is well regulated, and a good system kept up, I have no doubt of its efficiency as a test.

6665. Have any instances come to your knowledge of that description of fraud being committed, of a man getting into the Workhouse upon the pretence of not being able to obtain employment, and your discovering afterwards that the man could obtain work?

No.

6666. Have there been instances of that description in relation to those who obtain out-door relief; have not persons been placed on the out-door relief list?

A great many.

6667. Therefore you are more subject to imposition in the case of out-door relief than of in-door relief?

I think I never met with a case of imposition as respects the in-door relief, but I have met with numerous cases in the out-door relief.

6668. With respect to persons affecting to be widows, is not it a matter tolerably notorious that persons deserted by their husbands represent themselves as widows, and that the children produced are sometimes not the real offspring of the persons producing them?

I believe it is the case in some Unions; I never give relief to a woman who states herself to be deserted, for I find it generally the case that there has been collusion between man and wife, and the husband is constantly sending her money.

6669. Have you had many criminal prosecutions against husbands for deserting their wives?

A great many.

6670. Have they been effectual?

I think so.

6671. Have any cases of death from starvation come within your knowledge in the Galway Union, or are you pretty confident that none such have occurred of late?

There have been several deaths stated to be from starvation, and the jury brought in a verdict of "Died from destitution and want," when it has been clearly proved to the jury that they were receiving the usual rations which are allowed them.

6672. Do you happen to know that in the cases of any such persons there has been an interval of a day, or possibly more than an entire day, in which, by accident, or from some other cause, the ration has not been duly received?

I do not know a single instance; I have investigated every case which has occurred.

6673. Such cases were reported?

Such cases have been reported to Dublin.

 6674. And,

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6674. And, upon investigation, you found they were not accurately reported?
I found that they obtained their rations week after week, in the usual manner; at least there is sworn evidence before me that they did, so I have reason to believe they did not.

6675. The evidence convinces you of the fact?
Yes.

6676. Therefore, if they went for a day or two without the rations, they must have parted with the rations after they received them?
Yes; they do sell their rations frequently, to purchase tea and candles and tobacco, and they suffer great privations in consequence.

6677. Why are they not supplied with cooked food, instead of raw food, which they could not sell?
I never gave cooked food myself, for I found it to be so expensive, and I always take a great deal of trouble in my out-door relief; I see every person; I think where destitution exists to a great extent, as in the Galway Union, you must relieve the population, and the cheapest manner is the best, if you prevent imposition.

6678. What increase should you calculate upon in the expense by giving the relief in cooked food, instead of raw food?
I am afraid the cooked food would cost three or four thousand pounds a year in the distribution.

6679. In out-door relief do you think what is commonly called the quarter-acre clause has been pretty constantly attended to?
I have attended to it in almost every instance.

6680. You feel pretty confident that in the Galway Union no person holding above a quarter of an acre of land receives relief?
Not at the present time; I know an instance where the bailiff of a property himself had written an applicant's name in the Application and Report-book, and had written in the column, "If in occupation of land, how much"—"None:" on the revision it was proved to my satisfaction that the man had two holdings of land, and that the week before that he had paid his landlord the rent.

6681. The holdings being on the estate upon which the bailiff was employed?
Yes; the bailiff wrote the application himself, and the Relieving Officer excused himself by saying that the application was not in his own hand-writing.

6682. Are you pretty confident that no person in the Galway Union holding above an acre of land is really in a destitute condition?
I think there are a great many of that class in a destitute condition, but I find they are giving up their land very willingly.

6683. A good many persons hold small portions of land, though considerably exceeding a quarter of an acre, in that Union, by lease, do not they, the leases being made not merely for agricultural purposes?
I believe they do in some parts of the Union, I think more in the Western districts than any other.

6684. How do you deal with such a case; in what way do you ascertain that the land is really surrendered?
In some instances I require the production of the certificate of the agent that the land is actually surrendered, and then the Relieving Officer visits the applicant's house, and sees if his land is tilled; if it is, I make him ascertain who tilled the land, and if I find that the applicant tilled the land, I will not give him relief; if I find his wife and his children to be dying of starvation, I give them a ticket for the Workhouse themselves; it is not a very desirable thing to do, but I have no other alternative.

6685. But the man himself may also be starving?
You cannot relieve him.

6686. Till he has parted with that lease, if lease he has, or has legally and effectively surrendered the land, tilled or untilled, you do not relieve him?
No

6687. Must

6687. Must not there be great distress among those persons?
Very great distress; but it is their own fault, for they could surrender their land; if it were proved to my satisfaction that they could not surrender their land, there being some legal difficulty in the way, I should give them relief immediately; but where it is proved that the person is obstinate, and will hold the land, I will not give him relief, though I may give his family relief, and I think he ought to be prosecuted for neglecting his wife and family, by not giving up his land.

6688. Has any instance of collusion between the lessor and the occupier come before you?
Yes.

6689. You have had difficulty, have you not, in dealing with those cases?
I have had tickets from the immediate lessors, who have stated that the parties have given up their lands, and were destitute, and I have found afterwards that the land has been tilled.

6690. Are those immediate lessors the head landlords, or middle-men?
Principally head landlords.

6691. Or their agents?
Yes, principally their agents; they generally did not give the certificate themselves.

6692. In the townlands which are remote from Galway, you must have great difficulty in investigating that class of cases?
Very great difficulty.

6693. Have you any other suggestions to offer, as to the alteration or the improvement of the law?
I think that relief in Ireland should be confined to the Workhouses, except in the cases of the aged or infirm, under Section 1.

6694. You think there should be no power given to the Commissioners, to extend relief beyond the Workhouse?
I would provide sufficient Workhouse accommodation; if the Workhouses were empty, you would save it in the expenditure, even if you kept them there as a test; I think there is nothing that will save a Union like Galway from ruin, but plenty of Workhouse accommodation.

6695. Do you think it would be possible to provide sufficient Workhouse accommodation, so as to dispense altogether with out-door relief?
Not in a year of famine; I think, also, that all the orphan girls should be sent to the Colonies as emigrants.

6696. At the expense of the union?
Yes.

6697. Does the system of Workhouse education, which is now given to young women, go much beyond their instruction in the reading and writing which is taught in the national schools?
It does, far beyond it.

6698. How far does it go beyond it?
We have industrial training in the Galway Workhouse; the boys are taught tailoring and shoemaking, and the girls are taught knitting and sewing, which they are not taught in the country schools to any great extent.

6699. Do you think, without some instruction in out-door work, those girls have, in their home education, the means of encountering the roughness and the necessity of a colonial life?
I think, unless they are educated in the Workhouse school, they are hardly fit for emigrants; I know no better school for them.

6700. Take a girl who is a farmer's daughter, who has been accustomed to milk the cows, and turn her hand to everything, do not you think she has a better chance in the bush, as the wife of a colonist, than a girl who has been brought up in the Workhouse?
I do not think she has.

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6701. You recommended that those 1,500 young girls should be sent out at the expense of the Union; do you think that the Union of Galway, situated as it is, would be able to incur that expense?
Not at the present time; if the crops succeed, it will be.

6702. Were those whom you have sent out willing to go, generally, or was there any objection on the part of any of them?
There was no objection whatever.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till Friday the 20th, One o'clock.

Die Veneris, 20° Aprilis 1849.

The EARL OF ST. GERMANS in the Chair.

The Honourable EDWARD TURNER BOYD TWISLETON is called in, and examined as follows:

6703. WHAT offices connected with the administration of the Poor Law in Ireland have you held?

I held the office of Fourth Poor Law Commissioner in Ireland under the old Poor Law administration from November 1845 to the 27th August 1847, and since that period I have held the office of Chief Poor Law Commissioner in Ireland, being a member of the Irish Poor Law Commission, in conjunction with the Chief Secretary and the Under Secretary for Ireland.

6704. During that period you have carefully watched the operation of the Irish Poor Law, and have attentively considered its provisions?

I have.

6705. Is it your opinion that the operation of that Act was beneficial up to the period of the famine?

It was; it appears to me to have answered the purpose for which it was intended, viz. to prevent deaths from starvation, and to relieve cases of extreme destitution.

6706. Is it your opinion that the occurrence of the famine and the failure of the potato crop rendered an extension of the then existing Act necessary?

It rendered an extension of the existing Act necessary, provided that individuals were not to be allowed to die of starvation, and provided the State was not prepared to advance money for the relief of destitution from the Imperial funds.

6707. To that extent, then, the opinion formerly expressed by you, as to the inexpediency of giving a power of administering out-door relief, is modified?

It is modified to that extent. The opinion I formerly gave was with reference to the expediency of introducing a system of out-door relief to able-bodied men in Ireland, at a time when it appeared certain that the withholding of relief out of the Workhouse did not occasion death from starvation; and I am not aware of any state of things previously to 1846 in Ireland, in which the effect of withholding relief out of the Workhouse would have been such as to occasion deaths from starvation, except in parts only of the country in peculiar periods of famine, of comparatively rare occurrence. But the effects of the famine of 1846 were such, that it was wholly impossible that deaths from starvation could be prevented in Ireland, unless there was out-door relief in one form or another; and consequently, a large system was introduced by the Imperial Government of giving out-door relief to able-bodied men in 1846 under the Labour Rate Act, and afterwards, in 1847, under the Temporary Relief Act; so that the question of whether there was or was not to be some out-door relief was, I think, practically settled in the Autumn of 1846 and in the Spring of 1847. I do not at all regard the Irish Poor Law Extension Act as having introduced out-door relief to able-bodied men, or that it is at all the object of it to grant such out-door relief; on the contrary, it seems to me to have been fully intended to extinguish such relief as soon as possible; merely to tolerate it for a time, when deaths from starvation could not be prevented without it, and ultimately to extinguish it. I am convinced that, if the speeches of the Members of the Government who introduced the measure are read, it will be observed that they did not contemplate the introduction of a permanent system of such relief. My

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view of the Act is in accordance with what seem to have been the views of the Government at that time; and I think that it would be a misrepresentation of the Act to suppose that it either intended to introduce, or did, in fact, introduce a system of out-door relief to able-bodied men. The peculiarity of the Act, as far as out-door relief to able-bodied men is concerned, was, that it made the expense of such relief a local charge, instead of an Imperial charge.

6708. Does your answer apply to the administration of relief to the aged and infirm, as well as to the able-bodied?

No; I never gave any opinion as to the propriety of out-door relief to the aged and infirm: the opinion I formerly gave entirely applied to the system of relief to able-bodied men.

6709. Will you state your opinion upon that branch of the subject, as well as upon the other?

In an ordinary state of society, I see no objection to the system of out-door relief to the impotent poor, under proper regulations, as it exists in England; and I would not recommend a repeal of the existing law in Ireland under which Boards of Guardians have a discretionary power on the subject. At the same time I am bound to add, that I entertain doubts whether it is advisable, for the present at least, that a regular system of out-door relief to the impotent poor should be introduced into Ireland, if it can be avoided, without occasioning death from starvation; I think that the Workhouse system, even for the impotent poor, is peculiarly adapted to the state of society in Ireland, on account of the habits of the applicants for relief, their very low standard of existence in many parts of the country, and their extreme cunning in hiding their resources. However, I believe it is entirely out of the question, at present, in many Unions to withhold such relief entirely; and, under any circumstances, I deem that out-door relief should be granted to the impotent poor rather than overcrowd the Workhouses. Indeed, speaking generally, all my views respecting the fitness of the system of administering relief in Workhouses proceed on the supposition that those establishments are well regulated, and that a greater number of inmates is not admitted into them than is consistent with health. Hence, rather than carry the Workhouse system so far as to injure the health of the inmates, I think that moderate assistance should occasionally be given to the impotent poor out of the Workhouse.

6710. Under what circumstances have you thought it right to issue orders to Boards of Guardians and to Vice-Guardians to administer out-door relief to the able-bodied?

When the Workhouses are full, or when, by reason of fever or other infectious disease, they are unfit for the reception of destitute persons.

6711. Under no other circumstances?

Under no other circumstances would it, strictly speaking, be legal.

6712. Is it your opinion that the power which was given of administering out-door relief has been much abused?

I am afraid that it has been much abused more or less in some Unions, and some abuses seem to me almost inseparable from any general system of out-door relief to able-bodied men. I have no doubt that there are abuses, but, at the same time, I consider the demoralization arising from those abuses, however great, to be a less evil than deaths from starvation, and less than the demoralization arising to all classes from deaths from starvation being permitted to go on unobserved. It appears to me that what takes place in vessels at sea where there is a want of provisions, and the bad feelings of human nature which are called out under such circumstances, exhibit in a concentrated form, the demoralizing effects to a family and to individuals among the lower orders, of their being without food. Again, such a state of things is almost equally demoralizing to the upper classes; it blunts the finer feelings of their nature, and generally degrades their moral being. I consider it therefore as positively demoralizing to all classes of society to permit deaths from starvation to go on; and thus, allowing fully all the evils arising from out-door relief, I consider the other evils which I have specified to be greater.

6713. Do you think that the provision under the Extension Act, by which out-door relief is introduced, confining that out-door relief to relief in provisions has

has contributed much to check the evils which otherwise would have arisen under it?

I do; I think it has been a check upon abuses.

6714. Has it been generally enforced?

Yes, certainly. Any other relief to able-bodied men would be illegal. What we prefer very much is, that relief should be given in cooked food, and wherever that system can be introduced it is. It is part of our definite instructions that the relief should be given in cooked food; but in many Unions the Guardians have not acted on those instructions, and they say that they find great difficulty in introducing the system; but, as far as the Central Commission is concerned, we are always desirous that the relief to able-bodied men should be given in cooked food.

6715. Can you give the Committee a Return showing the Unions in which the system of giving cooked food to all receiving out-door relief is adhered to?

I will have such a Return prepared.

6716. Do you mean to say that your instructions go to the effect of ordering cooked food to those who, under the first clause of the Act, receive out-door relief?

No, only to able-bodied men.

6717. Have any instances been brought before you in which provisions, not being cooked food, have been sold by the parties receiving them?

Yes; and I am afraid, in some instances, even cooked food; there is no absolute safeguard, even in cooked food, against the sale of rations given by the Guardians as relief.

6718. You do not think that any system of precautions which the Guardians can adopt will effectually and entirely prevent it?

Not entirely.

6719. Have you heard of any instances, in districts where out-door relief is given to the able-bodied, of able-bodied persons refusing to take work by task for fear of being put off the relief list?

I have heard one or two complaints of that kind, but, generally speaking, when we have inquired into them, my impression is, that they were not found to be substantiated; but a distinction must be made as regards the cases of single men and of married men with families: the general allowance to one person is scarcely more than a pennyworth of meal a day; it seems to me almost impossible that a single man could refuse work at anything like decent wages, he receiving merely the value of a penny a day from the Guardians.

6720. The question applies, not to permanent work by the day, but to engaging in piece-work or task-work?

I do not know of such cases; but I have no doubt whatever that some have occurred in reference to married men with large families.

6721. Have you any reason to suppose that they frequently occur?

No, if they did, I think we should have had them brought before us, and substantiated.

6722. You were understood to say that you considered that it was a mistake to imagine that the system of out-door relief owed its origin to the Poor Law Extension Act, but that it might be traced to measures antecedently in existence; do you refer to the Public Works Act in the first instance, and to the Relief Act in the second?

Yes.

6723. Under the Public Works Act there was a maximum of about 700,000 people employed?

Yes.

6724. And the maximum, under the Relief Act, was the number of 3,500,000 rations?

Yes.

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6725. Was not that a much more extended out-door relief than any which has been practised under the Extension Act?
Much more.

6726. What, in your judgment, was the consequence of that extended relief?
It saved the lives of a great number of individuals, and, at the same time, occasioned a great deal of abuse.

6727. Was the abuse extensive?
I have no doubt that it was very extensive indeed under both systems.

6728. Do you think that the abuse which existed under those two systems has, in its ultimate consequences, been one of the causes which have interfered with the beneficial operation of the Extension Act?
To a certain extent, in some localities.

6729. What were the descriptions of abuses which you consider to have prevailed under those previous Acts?
I consider that many persons who were not destitute, and who might have subsisted without relief, obtained relief.

6730. Was not one of the abuses which was most complained of, and considered to be most prevalent, that parties possessed of land obtained relief from the public works or the rations?
That was one; but there were other complaints of persons in the employment of the gentry receiving relief; there was one case mentioned to me in which the coachman and other private servants of a gentleman were on the relief list.

6731. Taking the number into account of those who are receiving out-door and in-door relief at the present moment, and comparing those numbers with the number of 3,000,000 of rations in the one instance, and 700,000 persons in the other, have you any doubt that the number of persons receiving relief in those cases was infinitely beyond the number of those who were justly entitled to relief?
That number was much beyond the number of those who were justly entitled to it.

6732. What is the maximum number that has been relieved under the Extension Act, in-door and out-door?
Eight hundred and thirty-three thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine out of the Workhouses; and during the same week (viz. the week ended the 1st of July), 139,397 were relieved in the Workhouses; in all, 973,286.

6733. At the time when 800,000 have been receiving relief under the new system, has the distress in Ireland been, in your judgment, greater or less than it was in the years anterior, during the existence of the Public Works system?
A great distinction must be made between different parts of the country: I take it that in several parts of the country there was much greater distress in the year between the harvests of 1846 and 1847, than in the subsequent years.

6734. Comparing the state of what are called the distressed districts in Connaught, Donegal, Kerry and Clare, at the present moment, and during the prevalence of the Public Works Act, do you consider the distress to have been greater then or now?
I would make a great distinction between the counties which have just been mentioned: I should say, that in Donegal the distress was undoubtedly greater then than it is now; but in Mayo, my impression is, that the distress is greater now than it was then; and in Galway also; and also in Clare, as I am disposed to think, and in Kenmare; but in other parts of Ireland I am not prepared to say that the distress is so great now; on the contrary, I have no doubt that it was much greater then.

6735. Taking those districts in which you conceive the distress to be at present greater than it was at any anterior period, do you consider that there is anything like the same number of persons now receiving relief that there were at the time of the existence of the Public Works and the Rations systems?
No, the number is not so great; but at the same time, although I believe that there are in those counties a certain class of persons who are more destitute now

now than they were then, I am not absolutely prepared to say, without more minute inquiries, that there may not have been a certain number of individuals destitute then who are not so now. I feel a difficulty in giving a positive opinion upon this point, but still I have no doubt that there are certain persons more destitute now in those districts than there were a year or two ago.

6736. Comparing the time of the Public Works with the present time, and assuming the expenditure of 3,110,000 *l.* in the county of Mayo alone on the Public Works Act, and assuming the total expenditure for the eight most distressed Unions in twelve months ending the 29th of September last to be but 220,000 *l.*, have you any doubt that there was a great misapplication of the funds in the first of those periods under the Public Works Act?

I have not the least doubt that there were great abuses under the Public Works Act.

6737. In the Papers before Parliament, with respect to the eight Unions which were represented as being the most distressed, it appears that there is a population of 563,000, that the expense during the twelve months ending the 29th of September 1848 was 220,000 *l.*, that the amount of rate collected was 44,000 *l.*, and that the aid given from supplemental sources was 157,000 *l.*; now, do you consider that the distress in those districts in that year was greater or less than at the period of the Public Works?

My impression is, that the distress was greater during the last year.

6738. Will you have the goodness to prepare for the Committee a similar Table with respect to those eight Unions for the years ending the 29th of September 1846 and 1847, as connected with the Poor Law?

Yes; that would be at a time when there was relief merely in the Workhouse.

6739. Have you any doubt that the distress is infinitely greater in those eight distressed districts at the present time than has ever been?

That is my impression in regard to all of the eight Unions, except Glenties.

6740. And yet the expenditure in a single county under the Public Works was 3,100,000 *l.*, whereas the total expenditure in the eight Unions this year has been 220,000 *l.*?

Yes, somewhere about that sum.

6741. Are the Committee to deduce from your evidence, that you consider, with respect to all the three systems, namely, the Public Works and the Rations System and the Extension Act, that out-door relief to the able-bodied is in itself an evil leading to abuse, and that it is only to be justified by the desire to avoid the greater evil of the loss of human life?

Yes, precisely, as far as relief to able-bodied men is concerned.

6742. Are you able to tell the Committee whether there was any loss of human life, to your knowledge, beyond the casualties which under all social systems may exist, anterior to the famine in Ireland?

No.

6743. You acted under the English Poor Law Commission a considerable time?

Yes.

6744. Had you not cases even in England of losses of life from destitution or want of food?

Very few indeed; I am not prepared to say that a single well-substantiated case of death from starvation was ever brought under my notice.

6745. Did you, in relation to the state of Ireland anterior to the present famine, hear of any one case of death from starvation?

I cannot say that I never heard of any one case; my impression is, that in one Union there was a correspondence upon the subject, and that in the Carrick-on-Shannon Union there were some cases.

6746. Was that before the famine?

Yes.

6747. Can you let the Committee have that correspondence?

Yes.

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6748. The attention of the Poor Law Commissioners having been called to that subject, it may be presumed that if there were such cases there is a record of them?

If their attention was called to them.

6749. Will you have the goodness to let the Committee have any Reports which you received, stating the results of investigations as to cases of deaths from want anterior to the present famine in Ireland?

What I adverted to was a correspondence published in the Annual Report of the Poor Law Commissioners, for either 1844 or 1845, between the Commissioners and the Carrick-on-Shannon Board of Guardians, and that had relation to relief in the Workhouse, not out of the Workhouse.

6750. The present examination has reference to deaths from want, and the object is to institute a comparison between the number of deaths from want in the two countries, anterior to the famine, in one of which countries out-door relief prevailed, and in the other of which it did not exist. Can you get from the records of the Poor Law Commissioners in England and in Ireland any correspondence with reference to the cases of real or supposed deaths from starvation?

I do not remember any particular case except the one to which I have already adverted. Perhaps, however, your Lordships will permit me incidentally to observe, that, in comparing the two systems in all particulars, it would be necessary to bear in mind another point, viz., the degree of mendicity in the two countries; what I mean is, that it would be by no means safe to draw any inference as to the comparative value of the Poor Law in England and Ireland respectively, previously to 1846, merely from the number of deaths from starvation in the two countries.

6751. Why do you reckon it insufficient to make that the sole test?

Because there is not the smallest doubt that deaths from starvation were prevented in Ireland before 1846, by the lower classes in Ireland assisting each other, and by the farmers assisting them, and that deaths were prevented not merely by there being a system of Workhouse relief, but also by relief given to the poor under a very extensive system of mendicancy which did not exist in England at the same time.

6752. Do you consider that vagrancy has been prevented by the system of out-door relief in Ireland?

Most undoubtedly not; the distress has been far too great to be met altogether by any system of legal out-door relief; but I am speaking with reference to a general comparison between the working of the English Poor Law before 1846, and the working of the Irish Poor Law before 1846.

6753. Have deaths from starvation altogether ceased under the operation of the more extended system of out-door relief in Ireland?

I think not; I think that still many cases of death from starvation occur, some in connexion with the Quarter-Acre Clause.

6754. Within your experience, from what you have been able, officially or otherwise, to collect, have there ever been known in Ireland, in modern times, so many deaths from starvation as have happened concurrently with the system of out-door relief?

I do not believe that there has ever been a period in Ireland in which there were so many deaths as in the period of famine under the Labour Rate Act, from the harvest of 1846 to the Spring of 1847; but I have not the shadow of a doubt that the system of out-door-relief at present established in Ireland would have met all the cases of deaths from starvation, if sufficient funds had been given to those who administered the law, and if there had been no Quarter-Acre Clause.

6755. Take those eight most distressed Unions, the case of which is before the Committee; do you consider that the rate has been efficiently collected within those Unions, and that as much has been recovered as the circumstances of the country permitted to be paid?

I am not quite prepared to say that.

6756. Will you have the goodness to state in which of those Unions there have been Vice-Guardians existing?
In all, except Glenties.

6757. Will you read their names?
Ballina, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Clifden, Galway, Glenties, Kenmare and Westport.

6758. Are not the Vice-Guardians entirely under the control of the Government?
They are precisely in the position of a Board of Guardians, with this one difference only, that the Guardians are elected by the rate-payers, who are an irresponsible body, while the Vice-Guardians are appointed by the Commissioners, and are responsible to them.

6759. The Government having the selection of the parties, is not there, in the first instance, a great difference with respect to the degree of confidence that may be placed in their qualification?
They are appointed by the Commissioners.

6760. Is their fitness the principle upon which they are selected?
Yes, decidedly.

6761. Do you think that the system, according to which the elected Guardians and the *ex-officio* Guardians are appointed, does in every instance insure the same fitness for the office as the selection by the Commissioners of persons considered to be specially qualified for the duty?
No.

6762. With respect to removal, is there not a much quicker and more easy process of removal by the mere arbitrium of the Commissioners; can you not remove any one of them who is found to be unfit for the discharge of the duty?
Yes; that is what I understand by the expression "responsibility"; I say that the Vice-Guardians are officers appointed by the Commissioners, and are responsible to them.

6763. They would be removable for inattention to the collection of the rates?
Yes.

6764. Generally speaking, does it appear from these papers before the Committee, with which you are familiar, that the rates in that district have been collected fairly, or not?
They have been collected, upon the whole, fairly; in one or two of the Unions there has been some resistance to the collection of the rates; I would not wish to suppress such a fact as that; but, on the whole, the rates have been fairly collected.

6765. Supposing the relief of that district had depended entirely upon the extension law, without any auxiliary assistance, what would have been the consequence?
A large proportion of the population would have died.

6766. Notwithstanding the power of out-door relief?
Undoubtedly so; but with regard to all those western Unions, I never supposed that the Government, when they introduced that measure, contemplated that those Unions were forthwith to maintain their own poor entirely; immediately on the introduction of the Extension Act arrangements were made for assisting those Unions during the next year, and it appears to me that in those Unions moderate assistance could have carried them over this last year, and that it would carry them through this; and that the danger and risk of the laws breaking down altogether in some parts of the country arises from the exaggeration of the very principle to which the law in other parts owes its success. The success of the law in many parts of the country, as compared with the Labour Rate Act and the Relief Act, arose from this: that the destitution was to be a local burden, instead of being a burden upon the state generally. The effect of that alteration was most beneficial in some districts; rate-payers paid attention to the relief lists; seeing that they themselves had to pay for the relief of the destitute, they took precautions to prevent abuses, and administered the law very well.

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well. In other districts, in order to carry out the law, it was necessary to give the Unions assistance, carrying out the principle of local taxation to a certain extent, doing this strictly, but not oppressively, and, at the same time, assisting the locality from other sources. The difficulty which has arisen, or is likely to arise, in those western Unions will be from not giving them sufficient assistance, and from thus attempting to exaggerate this principle of local responsibility which has been found so advantageous in a great part of Ireland.

6767. With respect to those eight Unions, the rate being levied by persons without local bias, and subject to the direct control of the Commissioners (those Commissioners being two members of the Government, together with yourself), and the total amount of rate collected in those districts being 44,000*l.* only, and that being aided by 157,000*l.* from extra sources, will you state whether, in your opinion, the Extension Act could have succeeded, or whether it would not have absolutely broken down but for that extra aid?

Undoubtedly; but that extra aid was always contemplated.

6768. Then without extra aid, in circumstances like the famine which now prevails in the more distressed parts, the Act must have broken down?

Decidedly, but it was never contemplated that those Unions should all at once depend entirely upon their own resources.

6769. That Act, taken by itself, for which the justification of out-door relief, in your judgment, is the saving of human life, would be insufficient for the saving of human life unless it was supported by means beyond those which the Act provides?

In certain particular Unions, but not in all the Unions in Ireland.

6770. Are there any Unions in which out-door relief is not introduced at all?

There are some, and there are others in which there is out-door relief, and in which they pay for that out-door relief from their own resources; of course, in the last-mentioned class of Unions the Act has not broken down; in fact, it is there performing every function which the Legislature intended that it should perform.

6771. You have said that in the eight distressed Unions the Act would have broken down but for extra assistance: will you turn to page 10 of the Papers, where you will see a statement with respect to 21 Unions, which are there named, namely, Ballina, Ballinrobe, Bantry, Cahirciveen, Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlebar, Castlerea, Clifden, Ennistymon, Galway, Glenties, Gort, Kenmare, Kilrush, Mohill, Roscommon, Scariff, Sligo, Swineford, Tuam and Westport; in those Unions it appears that the amount of rate collected in the last year was 199,000*l.*, but that the amount advanced by the British Association and the Government was 237,000*l.*: now are you of opinion that the Act would have broken down in those 21 Unions equally as in the eight Unions if it had not been for that external aid?

In some of them it would, but I do not know that it would absolutely in all; in some Unions it would have been possible to have collected larger rates. I am far from saying that it would have been politic; on the contrary; but I have no doubt that in many Unions larger rates might have been collected. The fact of assistance having been given to some of those Unions arose from the wish on the part of the Government not to make and levy oppressive rates, so that it is not exactly that the law broke down in all of them.

6772. Will you have the goodness to name from that list of Unions any in which you conceive that the law would not have broken down if no extrinsic relief had been given?

Sligo; the amount advanced to Sligo by the Government is 4,892*l.* I am not prepared to say that by making larger rates, that sum might not have been spared.

6773. Will you give another example?

I do not know that in Roscommon it might not have been done with a heavier rate, an oppressive rate, a rate which we should not have deemed it advisable to impose; but still I do not know that that advance of 5,020*l.* might not have been saved in the Roscommon Union.

6774. Is

6774. Is there any other?
There are no others upon which it would have been desirable to have imposed a heavier rate; but I cannot say that in several of them, if there had been very heavy rates imposed, the money could not have been collected.

6775. Will you name them?
In almost all of them, if they had made a 3*s.* rate, or a 5*s.* rate in addition, I have no doubt they would have collected a certain amount of that from a certain number of the population.

6776. The total amount of deficiency here being 237,000*l.*, exceeding the total amount that was raised by rate, is it your deliberate judgment that that sum of 237,000*l.* could have been raised within that district in addition to the 199,000*l.*?
Undoubtedly not; but it might have been diminished to a certain extent.

6777. But unless you assume that the money spent for the relief of destitution last year, consisting of two funds, namely, the local rate and the assistance *ab extra*, was too much, supposing the assistance *ab extra* to have been withdrawn, could the support of the people have been continued?
Not absolutely of the whole.

6778. There would have been a large amount of mortality?
There would, I think.

6779. Amounting to thousands?
I think so.

6780. Then, taking the numbers into account, how can the Committee rely upon the Extension Act *per se* as being a means of preventing mortality, which is the justification, in your judgment, of that portion of the Act which allows of out-door relief?
It is quite clear that in this last year it would not have prevented them from starving in all the Unions in Ireland; and therefore to that extent you cannot rely upon the Extension Act; but over a large portion of Ireland it has had precisely the effect that was contemplated by the Legislature; it prevented death from starvation by means of local funds.

6781. When you say that more rate might have been collected than was collected, what was the reason that prevented it; could not the Commissioners, of whom you are the chief, have directed the Vice-Guardians, acting under their authority, to have raised heavier rates if they thought fit?
It was a consideration on the part of the Government not to tax them more than they were taxed already.

6782. Will you state what the motives of that consideration were?
I should think the Government were the proper parties to ask the motives of their consideration for particular districts.

6783. The question is not as to the motives of the Government, but as to the motives of the Commissioners, of whom you are the chief; have there been any instances in which parties in the country have refused a larger rate, and the Commissioners have felt it their duty to direct them to levy a lesser rate?
There are a few cases in which the Commissioners suggested to Guardians the making a smaller rate than such Guardians originally intended.

6784. What were the motives of so suggesting?
In some cases a rate was imposed which appeared to the Commissioners to be either uncollectable, or of such an amount as that it was undesirable to collect it; for example, in the Electoral Division of Inver, in Donegal, the Guardians have actually made a rate of 11*s.* in the pound; and when on the minutes we saw that they intended to strike the rate, we wrote to them on the subject, and suggested for consideration whether such a rate was collectable; but the responsibility in the last resort rested with them. It was not our duty or our province to order them to strike any less rate than the Electoral Division might require.

6785. Was that founded upon an estimate of the wants of the locality?
Yes.

 6786. That

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6786. That rate, founded upon an estimate of the wants of the locality, was suggested by the Commissioners to be reduced, on the ground of the impracticability of making the collection?

Yes: that was the drift of our suggestion to the Guardians on this point.

6787. Was not there another case in another part of Ireland; in the Union of Listowel was not there a rate of considerable amount made by the elected Board of Guardians, and reduced, or suggested to be reduced, by the Commissioners?

Yes.

6788. What Guardians had they in those two instances; were they paid Guardians or elected Guardians?

An elected Board of Guardians in both instances.

6789. What were the evil consequences which you apprehended from the levying of those large rates, and which induced you to suggest that they should be reduced?

I thought them oppressively large; I think it is very unfair to any individual, on account of distress in the locality, to demand of him a rate of 11 *s.* in the pound; I think it is unadvisable to make such a large rate.

6790. Was it, in your judgment, possible to collect those rates?

The experiment is now in course of being tried; for the Donegal Board of Guardians, notwithstanding our suggestion to the contrary, have made the rate. The collector's warrant is signed, and now the rate is in course of collection. In the course of the next six weeks it will be seen how far it is practicable to collect a rate of that amount. Perhaps some individuals will pay the whole sum demanded of them.

6791. Is that the highest rate that you ever knew struck?

Yes, decidedly.

6792. Do you believe that if there were no rents paid in that district, that rate might not easily be collected?

If no rent were collected during the year, it might be collected in some instances.

6793. Then does not it follow that the giving directions to the Board of Guardians to lower the amount of their rates was, in fact, a mode of paying, to a certain degree, the rents of that district?

To the extent to which that direction would have operated, it might have enabled the landlords to receive a portion of their rent.

6794. Did the Commissioners take that into their consideration at all when they issued the order to diminish the rates?

I confess that it was not present to my mind one way or the other; I thought that a rate of 11 *s.* in the pound upon any one's property was really an oppressive rate.

6795. With respect to that rate of 11 *s.* in the pound, was that a rate made after a very long intermission of calls, or had there been other rates recently struck in that Electoral Division?

A rate of 3 *s.* in the pound had been made on the Division in February 1848; and the sum of 3 *s.* 5¾ *d.* in the pound had actually been collected during the year ended last September 29th; but the expenses of the Electoral Division during the same period were no less than 6 *s.* 3 *d.* in the pound.

6796. You have no means of saying for how long a period the proposed rate of 11 *s.* in the pound was intended?

I cannot say from memory.

6797. Reverting to the 21 Unions in which 237,000 *l.* from extra funds were required, do you consider that if there had been an attempt made, and that all the powers of the Vice-Guardians possessing uncontrolled authority, and without local bias, had been employed to collect the utmost that they could in the district, they could have collected the total amount that was required, namely, 436,000 *l.*?

No, I do not think they could.

6798. If they had made the attempt, do you think that cultivation could have gone on in that country?
Decidedly not.

6799. Then if the rate had been enforced to the utmost in certain districts, must not the whole of the gross produce and the whole value of the property have been exhausted?
I think that such a rate would have prevented farmers from taking farms to a greater extent than indefinite fears of rates have this effect in some Unions at present.

6800. Would not it not only have prevented the future cultivation, but have deprived them of their existing capital, as represented by stock and farming implements?
Certainly.

6801. Are you aware that at the present moment in parts of Ireland the sale of farming stock, consisting of their ploughs and their farming cattle, and going the length of the sale of their manure, is going on for poor's-rate?
I do not know of any particular instances such as are specified; but I have no doubt that the sale of stock is going on to a certain extent.

6802. Have you heard of the sale of manure that has been preparing for the next year's sowing?
I have not heard of such a thing.

6803. Supposing that the system of collection of the poor's-rate at the present time goes to the length of selling the manure of the farmers for the next crop, what will the consequence of that be upon the available means of paying the rates for the following year?
I would not lay such a very great stress as the question seems to do upon the mere act of selling the manure, or of selling anything upon the premises; for so many of the rate-payers in some districts are so extremely cunning, that the only way for you to get at their money is to sell all the visible property upon their farms. There are instances, which are well known in Ireland, of persons who have been evicted for non-payment of rent, who have let their houses in fact be pulled down, and who have nevertheless had the money. At any rate there are many instances of this sort, that up to the very last moment a tenant has vowed and protested that he had not a penny to pay his rent; and when extreme measures were in course of adoption, he would just bring the money down from an old stocking in the thatch of the roof, and pay it; therefore, considering the habits of some of the lower orders in that respect, I do not attach such decisive importance to the fact of selling the manure.

6804. You think, from instances of this description and others, that there is a tendency to disguise the means of the parties—in fact, a fraudulent tendency to escape payment?
I do.

6805. And that unfortunately not confined within very narrow limits?
No; but there is a difference in this respect in different parts of Ireland.

6806. Are not those elements of national character which make the system of out-door relief most peculiarly dangerous?
They are.

6807. Will you look at the first page of the papers relating to the Western Unions; you will see that there is a reference there to ten or eleven Unions, in addition to those which are enumerated, in which, by dint of exertion, it is considered that serious financial embarrassment may be avoided, and the destitution effectually relieved without external aid. Can you furnish the Committee with the names of those Unions?
The ten Unions were Ennis, Newcastle, Thurles, Tipperary, Longford, Skibbereen, Listowel, Cashel, Boyle and Rathkeale; but of those there is certainly one which must, I think, now come into the class of the distressed or insolvent

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Unions. The Union to which I refer is Ennis; and generally, with regard to some of the others, there may be in them Electoral Divisions which may require assistance. At the same time I think it would be very undesirable that I should go into the subject with the Committee as to which may require assistance, because if I do so, and my evidence is published, some Unions might be induced to make immediate application for assistance to the Commissioners.

6808. Is the Report on the 10 districts your own report; was it prepared by the Poor Law Commissioners?

It was prepared in consequence of my instructions.

6809. In this paper, presented in February, you speak of 10 additional Unions, after an enumeration of the 21; now, supposing you were making out that paper at the present moment, would you have occasion to add to that number of 10?

I do not know that I should add other Unions; it is possible, however, that in one or two other Unions there may be Electoral Divisions which will require assistance.

6810. Then you think that, with the exception of those 31 Unions, the distress in the remaining portion of Ireland will be relieved by the operation of the Extension Poor Law Act?

There are 22 Unions for which assistance was likely to be required: Ballina, Ballinrobe, Bantry, Cahirciveen, Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlebar, Castlerea, Clifden, Ennistymon, Galway, Glenties, Gort, Kenmare, Kilrush, Mohill, Roscommon, Scariff, Sligo, Swineford, Tuam, Westport and Dingle: Dingle has been separated from Tralee.

6811. In those districts, then, under present circumstances, the operation of the Extension Act is not of itself, in your judgment, sufficient to prevent the destruction of human life?

Not in the 22 Unions.

6812. And in the 10 others, what is your opinion?

In the 10 others, with the exception of Ennis, subject to modifications as to particular Electoral Divisions, the destruction of human life may, with very great exertions, be prevented.

6813. This year?

Yes, this year; at least that is my impression. I know that Ennis must have assistance; the distress has been greater there than I originally reckoned on. The Guardians have, perhaps, not collected the rates so well as was expected, and the number of persons receiving relief is greater than I anticipated; I am afraid there are many abuses in the administration of relief in that Union.

6814. You have, of course, looked at the eighth series of the Union Papers which have been presented?

I have.

6815. It is stated, in page 73 of the Official Report, dated the 22d of January, with reference to Cashel, which is not one of the Unions you have enumerated, that the entire money derivable from rates, from the date of the letter to harvest, will not be sufficient even to defray the current expenditure for the same period; can you state what was the amount of the debt in Cashel at that time?

About 6,000 *l.*, as is stated in page 74.

6816. Then, if that statement be correct, do you believe that in Cashel the rates will be enough to support the pauperism of Cashel?

I do not know but they may be sufficient, with perhaps an addition to the debt.

6817. But even without the debt, if it is stated that the entire money derivable from rates, up to the time of harvest, will not be sufficient to defray the current expenditure of that Union, do you believe that it can be supported without external aid?

It will depend very much upon the collection; if you look at page 75, which relates to it, where there is a Report of the Vice-Guardians, it says, "To provide for this deficiency a new rate of about 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound over the Union would

would be necessary, and it is our intention about March next to strike a new rate; but we fear that serious difficulties will impede the collection of any further rate before harvest, and we should say that the funds derivable from the poor-rates up to that period will not be more than adequate to the current expenditure of the Union, leaving the balance of old liabilities as it stands at present."

6818. That is a case where there are Vice-Guardians?
Yes.

6819. Do you believe that under those circumstances the Union of Cashel will be able to support itself without extra aid?
As I interpret that passage, it may possibly be able to support itself, and collect rates to provide for the current expenditure up to next August, leaving the debts as they are at present.

6820. Are there not inconvenient consequences which have been found to result from the non-payment of debts by the Boards of Guardians; have not there been cases of seizure of the effects of the Boards of Guardians?
Yes, in some of the Western Unions.

6821. Have there been legal proceedings, a number of writs issued?
Yes, but they have not gone to any great extent.

6822. There are ten writs reported in one instance?
Yes.

6823. And 4,000*l.* or 5,000*l.* due to the contractors in others?
Yes.

6824. What will be the consequence of not providing for those debts?
It is the most ruinous policy to permit them to go on accumulating.

6825. Do you contemplate in that paragraph which you have just read, that after harvest you will be able to make a collection to satisfy the claims of the creditors?
Yes; I expect that unless something occurs which we do not foresee, Cashel Union may come round after next harvest.

6826. Unless there be a revival of the potato crop, what reason have you to expect that the distress at Cashel will be less next year than this?
If great exertions are unfortunately made to plant the potato again, and if such exertions are unsuccessful, the distress will be as great next year as at present.

6827. Taking the whole of those districts to which your attention has been directed, unless the potato crop should be restored, do you think there is any reasonable probability of supporting the people of those districts through the medium of the Poor Law Extension Act, which we are now considering?
No; if there is another potato failure, I think it is impossible.

6828. To what extent of country does that answer apply?
To the Western Unions, what we call now the distressed Unions, those 20 Unions.

6829. And to no more than twenty?
It depends upon the extent to which they plant potatoes this year, and the extent of the failure, if there is a failure at all.

6830. Now assume the potato failure to be continuous, is it your opinion that the number of distressed Unions must go on increasing by reason of the waste of property?
Decidedly; they have planted potatoes to a very great extent this year in some districts, and if the potato crop fails there, then such districts must be, of course, in a much worse state than they are now.

6831. Now, take the other alternative: supposing the potato to be restored as an article of permanent subsistence, and the same degree of confidence to be felt in the potato as a first article of food, as has previously existed; taking the whole

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whole condition of Ireland together, do you contemplate that there would be a permanent cessation of distress; taking the distressed districts of Connaught, supposing the potato to revive, what would be the consequence there?

There would not be a permanent cessation of poverty, but I do not know but that, with the exception of a few Unions, there would be a cessation of destitution as long as the potato did not fail.

6832. To what do you attribute the extreme pressure upon those districts?

The main cause is the failure of the potato crop; but still in one or two of those Unions it will require some time for them to come round to what they were before the potato failures.

6833. Supposing the population of those Unions had been only of such an amount as to admit of their being supported upon the cereal food that could be grown upon the land, would there have been the same pressure of distress?

Certainly not.

6834. Do you connect the great difference between the Northern and Eastern districts of Ireland, as compared with the Southern and Western, with the fact that the inhabitants of the North and East, although using potatoes, have relied less upon potatoes?

Yes, that is one material element in the difference.

6835. Supposing that in the West the potato culture was restored, and the population continued diminished, do you consider that the country could rely on the permanent cessation of the distress which has been created by the potato failure?

Certainly not; the country could not rely upon it; these successive failures in the potato must shake greatly the confidence of all reasonable persons in the potato as the chief article of food in a population.

6836. Have you any doubt whatever that, notwithstanding that cessation of confidence, in your own judgment and in the judgment of thinking men the people of Ireland will continue to entertain confidence in the potato food up to the very last?

It is a most melancholy thing to state, but I believe that a very large proportion of the population will stake their all again upon the potato.

6837. Do you consider that a very great evil?

A great evil, in reference to the extent to which dependence is placed on the potato; although, certainly, if the potato were to come round again, it would materially relieve the country during the next few years.

6838. Would not that be a relief to the country for the time only, leaving it exposed to the recurrence of a similar calamity, allowing the same growth of population to go on which has led to the present pressure?

Yes; and the only advantage would be, that it would give time for the introduction of other measures. And then the landlords have had their confidence in the potato very much shaken, and I think they will do their utmost to introduce a better system.

6839. But you admit that there is a great tendency on the part of the Irish population to trust to the potato, and to risk almost their all in its cultivation?

There is, unfortunately, that tendency. Even in Wexford, a small proprietor told me last Autumn that he would rather plant the potato than anything else, even if the whole of it failed; and in the Westport Union, one person told me (to use his own expression) "that it was the beneficialest of all crops, and that he would rather have one acre of potatoes than three of wheat."

6840. Do you consider that tendency to be an evil, and a source of danger?

A great evil.

6841. Is not the existence of a system of out-door relief, which holds out, to the able-bodied more especially, that species of insurance against the failure of the potato by giving them a promise of support in case of the failure of the potato crop, at the present moment one of the most efficient causes of this speculation in potato culture?

It may have a tendency that way; that may, to a certain extent, be one of the

the evils arising from the system of out-door relief; but still that is a less evil than letting them die.

6842. Have not you already told the Committee that, as regards the mere dependence upon out-door relief, as provided by law, they must have died if there had been nothing else?

In certain Unions.

6843. Do not the "certain Unions" to which you have referred comprehend nearly a fourth part of Ireland in surface?

Yes; but I do not think that the altering the law concerning the charge of out-door relief on the poor-rates would make any great difference in that respect in those districts, because they know very well that no State will allow its subjects to die of starvation by hundreds. They know that there has been in former years, when the potatoes have failed, some sort of assistance given by the State. I do not think that on this head a mere alteration of the Extension Act would make any material difference; they are far too shrewd to be put off by a mere alteration of the Extension Act in a matter of that sort; they would still calculate on assistance being given to them.

6844. From what sources?

From the State, or from charitable associations.

6845. Do you think that that confidence is general?

I have no doubt that the confidence exists.

6846. What do you think the consequence of that confidence being misapplied would be?

They would die.

6847. On all former failures of the potato crop, they have met with assistance from without?

Upon all former occasions of great failure; I mean within our time.

6848. Are you aware that in the year 1839 there was a considerable failure in the potato crop, and that very earnest representations were made at that time to the Poor Law Commissioners to induce them to extend out-door relief, or even to allow their own officers to become administrators of charitable funds, and that they declined doing so upon principle in both instances, and that in their Report of 1840 they claimed great credit for their firmness in having so resisted, and stated the benefits of their having done so?

They had no power at that time to grant out-door relief.

6849. But they were urged to apply to Parliament for an alteration of the law, and they declined doing so, and that which they had the power of doing, which was to make their officers administrators of charitable funds, they declined doing on the ground that it would lead to fatal consequences in the administration of the Poor Law; was not that the fact?

I have no doubt that the Commissioners were fully justified, under the circumstances of the case.

6850. Are you aware that there were certain districts that received assistance from the State at that time?

I do not know.

6851. With respect to the effect which you attribute to the Quarter-Acre Clause in increasing the deaths from starvation, how, in your judgment, does that arise?

Under the existing law, an individual who occupies more than a quarter of an acre of land is not entitled to relief, and during the last year it is an undoubted fact that cases have arisen in which persons occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land have clung to their land to such an extent, that they have died rather than give it up, in order to qualify themselves for relief.

6852. The love of property has been stronger than the love of life?

Yes.

6853. Have not cases occurred, and been reported to the Commissioners, in which men have been found dead, apparently through destitution, actually with money in their possession?

Yes, that is so.

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6854. Is there anything in those instances which would affect your opinion of the propriety of the stringency of the law which withheld relief from men having in their possession either money or property of another description?

Money, I think, is somewhat different; it is a much more stringent test to require a person to give up a quarter of an acre of land in the present state of the country.

6855. Are you not of opinion that the test ought to be made as stringent as possible?

I do not recommend an alteration of the law as to the Quarter-Acre; but at the same time I must say that I think it is scarcely adapted to a state of famine. I think it is, upon the whole, a useful law, and that in an ordinary state of things it would be a very valuable line laid down for the direction of the Guardians; but in a period of famine, such as last year and this, I am very much afraid that it has been too stringent a provision.

6856. Is it not less stringent than the rule which obtains in England?

It does not strike me so.

6857. You are aware that no one possessing the smallest portion of property would be entitled to relief in England as long as he retained it?

It would depend upon the Board of Guardians. In many parts of the country a Board of Guardians would not insist, as a condition of relief in a Workhouse, that a person having an allotment should surrender it to his landlord.

6858. That person could not claim relief as a right as long as he retained it?

He could not.

6859. You were understood to state, that the Quarter-Acre Clause had been, in your opinion, too stringently adhered to?

I stated that where it had been strictly adhered to, it was in some cases too stringent a test of destitution.

6860. If in the month of July last year there were 174,000 persons in the receipt of relief in the county of Mayo, do you believe that in that county the Quarter-Acre Clause was stringently adhered to?

No.

6861. Are you able to state with any accuracy what number of persons have been reported to have died of starvation in consequence of their unwillingness to resign their land?

No, I am not; but there were undoubted cases brought before us; it is a very stringent test in particular parts of the country. Where there is no employment whatever, if a person gives up his land, and he is admitted into the Workhouse, in all probability his cabin will be pulled down at once; and when he goes out of the Workhouse he has not anywhere to go to; and I can very well understand, according to the operation of the feelings of human nature, that many individuals would say, "No, I will rather die than leave this; I will take my risk of want of food; here I will remain; if I give up my farm, and go into the Workhouse, I do not know what may become of me afterwards; here I will remain."

6862. Looking at the question merely as a matter of Poor Law consideration, is it not most essential that that class of persons should not be enabled to retain possession of some acres of land of which it is impossible that they can make a really profitable use, while they may prevent others from cultivating it to good account?

Yes, and that is one of the main points which weighs with me in thinking, upon the whole, that the law should not be altered; but still, I think, it should be fully understood how the law works in a period of famine, in order that the attention of benevolent individuals may be unostentatiously directed to the working of this law, so as to compensate its stringency, in some instances, by private charity.

6863. If those people practically prevent the cultivation of the soil, must not their retaining it in their legal occupation tend to increase the poverty and destitution of the country in coming years, as well as to decrease the amount of the property by which such destitution may be removed?

Yes, and there is sufficient reason, perhaps, upon the whole, for maintaining the provision.

6864. But

6864. But you have, according to your regulations, admitted the families of such individuals to relief, even though the head of the family retained his land?
There was a legal opinion given to that effect, and we promulgated that legal opinion.

6865. Have you acted uniformly upon it?
I do not think the Boards of Guardians have acted uniformly upon it.

6866. Have you known any cases of starvation where one individual, the head of the family, has remained out, the rest of his family having availed themselves of the order?
No, I do not call to mind any particular case.

6867. In fact, by giving that order to the Board of Guardians, putting that construction upon the Act, have not you put a direct stop to the danger of individuals dying from the effect of that particular clause in the Act?
It has very materially mitigated it, but that construction is not precisely binding on the Guardians.

6868. But wherever the construction has been adopted, do you believe that there remains any risk of starvation from the action of that particular clause of the Act?
There is no risk except to the following extent: supposing the children receive relief, there is a tendency to make such relief one source of subsistence to the whole family; in many instances they would have too little among themselves for subsistence, and I have an impression that there was a case in one Union wherein the children were receiving relief which was shared by the father, and there was a death amongst the children, which seemed to be traceable to starvation, the amount received by the whole of the family being insufficient for their subsistence.

6869. But still under that order relief was given to the whole of the family, with the sole exception of the head of the family, who was not entitled to relief?
Yes.

6870. Does not it follow that the larger the family is, the less danger there would be of that individual dying?
It would depend upon the allowance given; in a case where relief was given to the children under such circumstances, the Guardians would probably make such relief the very minimum that could be given with any show of reason.

6871. Is not the allowance always the same, namely, 1 lb. of meal to an adult, and half to a child under 14 years of age?
I do not know that every Board of Guardians would act upon that.

6872. Have you heard of any Board giving less than that?
Rather less; we should not approve of it if it depended upon us.

6873. Does not it depend upon you?
No.

6874. Have not you the power of correcting an evil of that kind?
In out-door relief we do not prescribe the amount to be given in any particular case; we merely make general suggestions to Boards of Guardians.

6875. In your opinion is that instruction as to relieving the families of persons retaining a quarter of an acre of land, and the opinion upon which it was founded, in conformity with the spirit of the Act?
It is extremely difficult to form an opinion upon the spirit of an Act of Parliament, independently of the construction given to it by the proper legal authorities; high legal authorities having given that construction to the Act, one ought, I presume, to suppose that that is the spirit of the Act.

6876. Is not it your opinion that relief given to the wife and family is relief given to the head of the family?
Yes.

6877. Is it not so invariably considered in England?
Yes, but in England it occasionally happens that a man who is not destitute, and therefore not entitled to relief, is indicted for neglecting to maintain his wife

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and family, if relief is given to them. In a Union where the prohibitory order was in force, if the wife and child of an able-bodied man in receipt of good wages, were allowed by that able-bodied man to starve, the Relieving Officer would be justified in giving relief to the wife and child; and the head of the family might be indicted and punished for neglecting to maintain them. The law, I think, is almost precisely the same in England and in Ireland.

6878. Is there any instance in Ireland of a man being prosecuted for having neglected to maintain his wife and child, who thereby became chargeable upon an Electoral Division?

I think there have been a few such cases.

6879. Subsequently to the taking of that opinion, has the practice in different Unions managed by Vice-Guardians been uniform?

It strikes me not.

6880. Have the Commissioners issued any instructions to the Vice-Guardians upon that subject?

Not different from the instructions to Boards of Guardians; we have been rather particular not to do so.

6881. What do you conceive to be the exact force of that opinion of which you have spoken?

The exact force of that opinion is, that the destitution which qualifies for relief is something personal, and that if a child is absolutely destitute it may receive relief; and that a wife may receive relief if absolutely destitute, although the father or husband, as the case may be, is legally not destitute.

6882. Do you hold that to be in consonance with the law in England?

It appears to me to be so. As I have already stated, it happens occasionally in England that a man who is not destitute, and therefore not entitled to relief, is prosecuted for neglecting to maintain his wife and child, who may have become, through his default, proper objects for relief, and may have received such relief accordingly.

6883. And he would be liable, in your judgment, to the same prosecution in Ireland?

Decidedly; but the only difficulty is, that for the success of a prosecution of that kind it must be shown that he is able to maintain his wife and child. In the present state of Ireland it may happen, that although a man holds a quarter of an acre of land, he really is unable to maintain his wife and child. The whole difficulty arises from this, that when the individual is prosecuted, in order to sustain the prosecution, it must be shown that he has wilfully neglected, *i. e.* that he was able to maintain his wife and child.

6884. If relief is given to the wife and child, and the man retains his occupation of the quarter of an acre, who would be entitled to the possession of that piece of land?

The possession of the land would remain as before.

6885. In case the wife and child have been relieved, would not the rightful possession of the quarter of an acre cease to be in that man?

No, decidedly not.

6886. Do you not think it would be an improvement in the law to say that any title which the man might have to hold land to the extent of a quarter of an acre should cease, if it was proved that either he or any of his family had received parochial relief?

I think that would be a very proper law, provided you could guard against abuses which might arise from saying, that if the wife and child are destitute, and receive relief, the man should cease to occupy the quarter of an acre; I am afraid that cases would arise where relief would be given improperly to the wife and child.

6887. How?

A Relieving Officer might be under the influence of the landlord, who might say, "I want to get so and so out of his occupation; he is a very unpleasant tenant of mine; he will not give up his land; you observe his wife and child, they seem to

to be very weakly, I do not think he is paying proper attention to them." And if the Relieving Officer came to the conclusion that they were on the eve of starvation, and gave them relief as destitute persons, he might compel the man to give up the quarter of an acre of land.

6888. Could that practically be done in many instances?
I do not say in many.

6889. In that case must not the wife and child be privy to the desire of the landlord to dispossess the father?
I do not know that. The questions of what constitutes destitution is a very nice and delicate question. I have no doubt that there are many wives and children who are suffering privations, yet not to such an extent as to justify the Relieving Officer to step in and give them relief.

6890. What do you assume to be a cessation of occupation, assuming no legal surrender to have been made?
That is a great difficulty connected with the Quarter-of-an-Acre Clause; it is one of the anomalies of the present law.

6891. How does it work practically?
Different Boards of Guardians interpret it in different ways. Perhaps the most usual mode of interpretation may be to determine that if a man has ceased to cultivate, he may be considered as having ceased to occupy.

6892. Is not it somewhat affected by the custom of each particular locality?
That is possible.

6893. What is the interpretation of the Commissioners?
They have been rather careful not to attempt to define occupation.

6894. How did the Commissioners interpret the opinion of Mr. Henn with regard to the two questions put to him?
They communicated that opinion to the Boards of Guardians.

6895. Without putting any interpretation upon it themselves?
Yes.

6896. Did the Board of Guardians ever apply to you for an explanation of it?
Yes. Whenever they did apply for an explanation, it was our practice to request them to state any particular case, and told them that we would give our opinion upon such particular case.

6897. Have you given any opinion upon any particular case?
Yes.

6898. Was there anything peculiar in that case?
In any such case there were some particular facts on which we formed an opinion one way or the other. The difficulty of the existing state of the law, which is very anomalous, is this: the general effect of the opinion of Mr. Henn, in which the Attorney-general, Mr. Monaghan, agrees, is to make occupation distinct from tenancy. Now, at first sight this distinction may and seems to be contrary to the policy of the Act; but on examination it will be found that there are difficulties either way, whether occupation is held to be identical with or distinct from tenancy. If you say that occupation is the same as tenancy, you are reduced to difficulties of the following kind: an individual may be willing to surrender all title and interest to the lands he holds, and he may do everything he can to divest himself of them; but his landlord may refuse, or may be in America or India, and it may be impossible for the tenant to divest himself of his tenancy, although he may be starving and willing to do all in his power to qualify himself for relief.

6899. He may hold under a lease which he cannot surrender without the leave of the landlord?
Yes; that is a difficulty which arises from supposing that occupation is the same as tenancy. On the other hand, to suppose that occupation is distinct from tenancy, leads you in other difficulties; for in rating lands, an individual would be rated as occupier who had not surrendered his tenancy; so that there would be this absurdity, that although the law distinctly states that no person in the occupation of any land of greater extent than the quarter of a statute acre

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shall be deemed to be a destitute person; an individual may receive relief who is nevertheless rated as occupier of several acres of land. The Legislature appears to me to have been well aware that there was a difficulty in regard to the Quarter-of-an-Acre Clause. For in that clause, as it came from the House of Commons, there was a special provision about *bonâ fide* surrendering the title. The words stood originally as follows: "Be it enacted, that from and after the 1st day of November next after the passing of this Act, no person who shall be in occupation, whether under lease or agreement, or as tenant-at-will, or for years, or in any other manner whatsoever, of any land to a greater extent than the quarter of a statute acre, shall be deemed and taken to be a destitute poor person under the provisions of the first-recited Act, or of the Acts amending the same, or of this Act, nor shall it be lawful for any Board of Guardians to grant any relief whatever, within or out of the Workhouse, to any such person until they shall be satisfied that he has *bonâ fide* and without collusion absolutely parted with or surrendered any right or title that he may have had to the occupation of any land over and above such extent as aforesaid of one quarter of a statute acre." That was how the clause came up from the Commons. I have some impression that even that was not considered sufficiently stringent in reference to surrendering the land, and it was proposed to insert in the Bill still more stringent words; but when the matter was looked into, and communication was held with the Officers of the Crown, they said, "Really the matter is involved in so much difficulty, you would do better not to enter the question of surrender," and the clause was then framed as it stands at present. So, on account of the difficulty of the subject, the Legislature used words which are ambiguous: the Commissioners are blamed because they have not put a definite meaning on words which the Legislature did not make clear, and to which, perhaps, they themselves did not attach a definite meaning.

6900. Do you think that the law requires amendment in that particular?
I do not see any satisfactory alteration of it.

6901. Could not it be done by making the very act of receiving relief by the head of the family a surrender?
I am afraid that in some instances this would lead to great collusion. For example, the landlord might be extremely unwilling to allow a tenant to surrender, and yet, under the suggested alteration of the law, the tenant would be able to divest himself of his responsibility by accepting relief.

6902. If the Guardians would give it?
If the Guardians would give it.

6903. Supposing it were limited to the case where no lease existed, would it not remove that objection, because in that case the tenant may surrender at the end of the year if he pleases?
Still it would make it entirely dependent upon the tenant; and I can conceive of cases arising where he ought to remain as the tenant where he is not really destitute.

6904. Do you mean where he gets relief?
He might represent himself to be destitute, and with cunning make himself appear to the Guardians a proper object of relief, though he was not really destitute.

6905. The question entirely depends upon his actual destitution, how the Guardians are to act with him, being actually destitute, but in possession of land?
That is upon the supposition that the Guardians are always correct: according to the supposition, the point would not be whether the tenant was destitute, but whether he received relief. The tenant in some instances, though not destitute, and though he ought to bear the responsibilities of a tenant, might manage to represent himself to the Guardians as destitute, and might receive relief.

6906. Do not you think that in most of such cases it would be rather a good riddance to his landlord?
That is very possible.

6907. Could not an unwilling tenant at present, if he wished to get rid of his tenancy,

tenancy, do something else contrary to the covenants in the lease, so as to forfeit his lease?

But I take it that a considerable proportion of small tenants have no covenants of any sort with their landlords.

6908. Seeing the objections and defects in the Quarter-Acre Clause, and not being able to recommend a remedy for them, are you prepared, upon the whole, to recommend the repeal of that clause?

Upon the whole, I am not.

6909. In England the mere fact of his receiving relief does not exempt a man from paying rates?

No; that is, according to the strict law; but in a large proportion of the parishes in England a person would be excused from rates under such circumstances.

6910. You referred to some Electoral Division or Union in the county of Donegal, where it had been proposed to impose an 11*s.* rate, which you thought would be an excessive rate, and you were asked whether the order of the Commissioners to suspend the collection of that rate had not practically some reference to the collection of rents. Would not the enforcement of such a rate in all probability have demanded what would have been under the circumstances a considerable sum to be paid by the small lessors for property, out of which they had received no rent at all within that year?

Undoubtedly.

6911. Supposing those persons to be men of small property, leaseholders or freeholders, the enforcement of such a rate might have reduced them to a state of insolvency?

Yes.

6912. Therefore the enforcement of the rate would have, in fact, aggravated the poverty of the Union, if it did not actually create destitution?

Yes; I think most probably such a rate as that would tend to increase the amount of destitution to be relieved by a subsequent rate.

6913. In some of those distressed Unions there are arrears of rate due?

Yes.

6914. But the land is not relieved from those arrears, no matter of how long standing such arrears may be?

No.

6915. And the stock of a new occupier, be he the owner or be he a new tenant, would be liable to be distrained for them?

Yes.

6916. The consequence of that is, that in point of fact in many cases the owner of the soil is required to pay an amount of rate for land of which he has had no profitable ownership?

Yes.

6917. That is not in accordance with the English law?

No.

6918. Does not the Irish law, requiring that the rate should be levied from the occupier, who is to deduct the landlord's share as he pays his rent, appear to contemplate that the landlord shall only pay in proportion to his profitable ownership, and that he shall not pay for land out of which he receives no rent?

That is an inference which may be drawn.

6919. Do you think it a correct inference?

I do not think it exactly a correct inference; it appears to me probable that the point was not presented to the Legislature one way or the other.

6920. But it is recognized in principle in the English law, from which the main features of the Irish law were derived, that a man is not chargeable for a tenement of which he has not profitable occupation?

The law in England on this point is different from the law in Ireland.

 6921. But

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6921. But no man is chargeable for a rate in England out of any property which is not sufficient to yield him some profit?
No, that is so.

6922. Does not everything in the Irish law tend to show that the same view in imposing a rate was taken by the Legislature when that Irish Law was passed?
I do not know that there is anything one way or the other on that point in the law.

6923. Except that combining the payment of the landlord's part directly with the payment of that of the tenant, would seem to intimate an opinion upon that point, would it not?
Perhaps the Legislature did not contemplate a state of things, one way or the other, in which the tenant would not pay, or in which the arrears would go on to such an extent as they have during the last two or three years.

6924. But the levy of the rate upon the landlord for his share of the rate upon property above the value of 4 *l.*, is upon an entirely distinct principle from the levy of it upon tenants under 4 *l.*, for which he is considered to be directly responsible?
Yes, quite so; certainly there is a distinction.

6925. That surely would strengthen the inference that, as regards the larger class of tenants, it was intended that the landlord should pay in proportion to the rent he received; the more so, would it not, as the amount of his share is made to depend entirely upon the amount of the rent, rather than upon the amount of the value of the property?
That is in favour of the inference which your Lordship would propose to draw from the Act of Parliament.

6926. Instead of drawing it myself, I rather wish to know whether you drew that inference or drew any other?
My impression is, that the Legislature did not contemplate this point one way or the other.

6927. But in the exigency which has arisen, what is your opinion of the way in which that ought to be conducted?
I see very great difficulty in remitting payment of the arrears in many instances in which the arrears have been allowed to accumulate so improperly; I would not make any alteration in the law on this point.

6928. If you were to remit those arrears, you would, in fact, be imposing a much heavier proportion of rate upon persons who had regularly paid their rate?
Precisely so; it would be a bonus to those who had omitted hitherto to discharge their duty.

6929. It would be discharging one portion of the Union from liability, and imposing the amount of that liability upon the other?
Precisely.

6930. Therefore, on the whole, you think it would be more inexpedient to remit even a portion of those arrears than eventually to levy them with all the difficulties and distress that such a levy might create upon the land?
Yes.

6931. Is it not the custom in Ireland when the tenant ceases to occupy, either by absconding or by surrender or by eviction, to treat the landlord as occupier?
Yes.

6932. If the landlord is a resident landlord, or has any property whatever in any part of Ireland, the course would be to proceed against that landlord for all arrears of rate upon that occupation?
Yes.

6933. Therefore, provided the landlord is resident, and has any property, those arrears would be discharged?
Yes.

6934. Therefore,

6934. Therefore, if there were any provision allowing Guardians to clear certain properties of rates, would it not be giving a bonus to those landlords who are living out of the country, and who are not amenable for those arrears, to the disadvantage of those landlords who are resident and have property in the country?
Yes, in one sense it would be a bonus.

6935. Can you tell the Committee why the arrear attaches to the incoming tenant in Ireland, and not in England?
I am not aware of the reason of the difference in the law in the two countries.

6936. What provision of the Act is it that fixes the incoming tenant with the arrear in Ireland?
The 71st section of the Irish Poor Relief Act, by which it is enacted that "every rate made under the authority of this Act shall be paid to the person authorized to collect the same by the person in actual occupation of the rateable property at the time of the rate made, and on his default, then by the person subsequently in occupation of the rateable property, from whom such rate shall be demanded."

6937. You were understood to say that you preferred that the law should so continue rather than that it should be assimilated to the law of England in that respect?
Yes.

6938. In coming to that opinion, have you given a full and deliberate consideration to all the consequences in both events?
I hardly like to make such an extensive profession of that kind.

6939. You are aware that your opinion has a great deal of weight in cases of this kind, with your experience; are we to understand that you had not given a full consideration before you gave that answer?
I am merely unwilling to make extensive professions as to the attention which I have bestowed on any subject.

6940. You are aware that there are very serious consequences entailed upon the land by leaving that arrear due upon it?
Yes.

6941. That the land being out of cultivation cannot again be brought into cultivation?
Yes.

6942. It has been stated and proved, as you are aware, that large tracts of land are left uncultivated in consequence of that provision of the law; whereas, on the other side, the evil which you have stated, from remitting the arrear, throws a greater burden upon those who have regularly paid. Taking into consideration those two evils, one in favour of the law as at present existing, and the other in favour of the change, by an assimilation with the law of England, are you prepared still to say that you think the law should so continue?
Yes; I have a very distinct opinion that the law should continue unaltered in Ireland, and that the arrears should not be remitted; but your Lordship's question appeared to me to imply that I had paid very great attention to the law of England upon the subject at the same time in comparison with the law of Ireland.

6943. The question referred to the consideration of the consequences in both events, whether on the balance of those evils, upon full consideration, you were still of opinion that the law should so continue?
I have a decided opinion with regard to the law in Ireland, but I have not very fully considered the law in England upon the subject.

6944. Your opinion, then, is, in point of fact, that the rate should be a charge upon the land in Ireland, which it is not in England?
That is so.

6945. At present the landlord coming into occupation becomes answerable

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for the whole of the arrears upon any part of his property, situated wherever that property may be?

Yes.

6946. Do you not conceive that it is a very extraordinary hardship that a resident proprietor, perhaps farming very largely, with great personal property in the country, should most unexpectedly and at any moment become liable for arrears of rate in different parts of the country for which he was totally unprepared?

I can very well understand that cases of great hardship may arise, but those cases of hardship would not weigh with me to alter the law.

6947. As you are understood, you are averse to giving up arrears of rates?

I am.

6948. But do you not suppose that that hardship could be very much mitigated, if not entirely removed, by confining the liability for those arrears to the land upon which they had accumulated?

It might be mitigated; but, at the same time, there is considerable advantage, I think, in the landlord being generally liable in matters of that kind.

6949. Would it not in any case be the interest of the landlord to keep his property free of arrears?

I do not see the great public advantage of confining the liability merely to that portion of the land.

6950. Cannot you conceive that a landlord, with very extensive property in different parts of the country, may find himself exceedingly embarrassed by being called upon to pay up unexpectedly a very large amount of arrears that have accumulated in different parts unknown to him?

In that way it might be a private advantage to him, merely as giving him time for payment.

6951. If you make it a charge upon the land, we presume that you contemplate facilities for selling that land in case that liability should not be discharged?

Decidedly.

6952. Do you not think it would be advisable, then, to confine the charge to the portion of the land upon which the exact rate was levied, and not to make liable for that rate other property of the person of the landlord or the tenant.

As far as selling the land goes it might be so, but, on grounds of policy, the object would be to get the money in the best way on the whole, without being oppressive.

6953. It has probably been reported to the Commissioners that, as things now stand, when tenants have reason to suppose that a distress is about to be made for a rate, stock is removed to an adjoining Electoral Division where the rates have been paid, and the collection is thus evaded?

Yes.

6954. But the landlord has no such facility to evade, has he?

No.

6955. Therefore you, in fact, confine the remedy of the Guardians as against the tenant to the portion of land rated, but you give them a much larger latitude as acting against the lessor?

Yes, that is practically so in the case just stated.

6956. Would it not, therefore, be more strictly in analogy to the powers given as against the tenant, if, as against the landlord also, the power of acting in relation to each rate should be confined to the portion of land chargeable for that particular rate?

There would be, in one sense, a greater analogy; but then, on the other hand, you are to bear in mind that the means of compelling the landlord to pay at all are inferior in promptitude to the means of compelling the occupier to pay.

6957. In what respects?

You can go and seize the whole of the occupier's visible property at once; now you have not such an advantage as that against the immediate lessor; you are obliged to sue him, and you can only do that eventually by means of a process which you can do at once with the occupier.

6958. But is there not, practically speaking, a much greater facility, and has it not been found so, of removing stock by occupiers, and thus evading the payment of rate by distress, than any facility that the lessor has for evading the powers of every court in Ireland, which you are at liberty to call in for the enforcement of the rate, as against the lessor?

With very skilful management I think that these fraudulent occupiers could be dealt with to a very considerable extent; it would require great skill to come down upon them at a time when they are not prepared for it.

6959. Have not cases of persons, who may be deemed wealthy, been reported to the Commissioners, who did contrive to remove valuable stock off the land, and for a time thus avoid the payment of rates upon particular farms?

I have no doubt that cases of that sort do occur; but still I consider that we have much greater facilities, on the whole, in enforcing payment by occupiers, than we have of enforcing payment by immediate lessors.

6960. Do you mean to convey to the Committee that it is easier to collect the rates from a tenant occupier, than from a landlord rated as an occupier?

No, not than from a landlord rated as an occupier, if he has any stock upon his land.

6961. Where the landlord is rated as an occupier, is there not the same security for the rates upon the land as in the case of the tenant?

Precisely.

6962. And, besides, by an application to the magistrates, a warrant can issue for a distress upon any other property that that landlord may have in any other part of Ireland?

Yes.

6963. Then in the case of the landlord occupier, you have the same security as against the tenant, and, in addition, the power of proceeding against the landlord in respect of any other property whatever?

Yes.

6964. Would it not appear an injustice that you should have the power of following a landlord to his property in any part of Ireland, when you cannot follow him to property in England?

No; it does not present itself to me in the light of an injustice or justice either way; it is rather a question of public policy.

6965. Suppose the case of a landlord having property in these distressed parts of Ireland, and also having property in Leinster or Ulster, and another landlord having property in these distressed districts, and having property in Yorkshire or in Durham; does there not appear to be an injustice in the power which the law gives with regard to the first, as compared with the second?

No, it may be an anomaly in the law; it is not precisely what I would call an injustice.

6966. Would not the present state of the law encourage absenteeism?

To that extent it may.

6967. By removing from Ireland all his personal property, and by living out of the country, would not the owner be perfectly free from the very great liability at present weighing upon him?

Yes, as a landlord occupier.

6968. Will not those arrears as to which you have been asked have the effect of depreciating the value of land, not only in the tenancy, but in the fee-simple, in case of sale?

The tendency of any taxation on land is that.

6969. There are cases in which you can proceed against the landlord, and take his land?

Yes, under a judgment against an immediate lessor.

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6970. With regard to the valuation of Ireland, is it your opinion that the valuations of the different Unions bear any degree of similarity one towards the other?

They bear some degree of similarity; they were all framed under the same instructions originally, and all under the same Act of Parliament, namely, in reference to the letting value of the property; but I am aware that Valuators in different Unions have performed their duty in a different manner, and the Poor Law valuations are, in effect, certainly not uniform over Ireland.

6971. Have they been usually carried on, keeping in mind the amount of population and the actual value of the soil, the one as being supposed to afford the number of paupers, the other as affording the means for their support?

They were framed in reference to that point; they were framed on the principle of considering what was the letting value of the property.

6972. Is it your opinion that, for instance, in the distressed Unions, usually speaking, the value of the rateable property within them bears any degree of comparison with the value in many of the other Unions which are the best off in Ireland?

I presume that the valuation in each case was framed upon the same principles as in the other Unions; but in some Unions the valuation differs from the real letting value more than in others.

6973. For instance, take the Union of Glenties; you will find that the valuation of the whole of the Union of Glenties is 16,330*l.*, that the population is 43,571, and if you divide the whole valuation between the population, you will find that it gives only 7*s.* 3*d.* per head; do you think that that amount was adequate to support the amount of pauper population in that Union?

That property of that letting value was adequate to support them.

6974. That 16,330*l.* per annum, supposing the valuation to be fairly taken, was sufficient to support the pauperism arising out of 43,571 persons?

I can conceive it possible that property, of which the letting value was 16,330*l.*, might have supported the poverty of the population of Glenties Union.

6975. You have already stated that you consider that the valuations have been taken upon a tolerably fair ratio in one Union as compared with the other?

No; pardon me, I say that they were framed originally under the same instructions and under the same Act of Parliament, but that in different Unions there was a variety in the manner in which those instructions were carried out; and I have no doubt that in some Unions the valuation differs from the letting value more so than in others.

6976. Will you refer to the Union of Rathdown; do you not perceive that the valuation of the Union of Rathdown is 152,314*l.*?

Yes.

6977. That the population is 44,214?

Yes.

6978. Which gives the sum of 3*l.* 8*s.* 10½*d.* per head, if divided equally over the whole amount of the population?

Yes.

6979. Is it your opinion that the valuation of the Union of Rathdown bears any proportion to the valuation and population of the Union of Glenties?

Your Lordship is asking me now in reference to the proportion which the valuation bears to the population; there is not the least doubt that the proportion which the valuation bears to the population varies very greatly over Electoral Divisions and Unions.

6980. Must it not have been obvious from the very commencement of the formation of these Unions, that there were means for supporting the pauperism in the population of the Union of Rathdown, whereas there never existed the means in the Union of Glenties of supporting its pauper population?

I am not prepared to say that; there is the great disproportion between the population and the valuation in the two Unions; but before the failure of the potato crop Glenties Union maintained its destitution in the Workhouse, notwithstanding the low amount of its valuation.

6981. Is

6981. Is it not to be supposed that at all times the population of the Union of Glenties, even before the failure of the potato crop, was a poorer population than the population of the Union of Rathdown, which was situated so near to the metropolis of Ireland ?

There is no doubt of that; Glenties Union included the poorest population in the whole of Ireland, but the amount of destitution in that Union was not of necessity proportionally great.

6982. Is it not your opinion that the population of Glenties was always more destitute than the population of the Union of Rathdown ?

No; I think that the population of Glenties was always poorer, but there was not more destitution in it.

6983. Will you refer to the Union of Westport; you will find the valuation of Westport to have been 38,876 *l.*, the population to be 77,952 persons, giving at the rate of 10 *s.* per head; is it your opinion that it was possible that the pauper population of Westport could have been supported out of so small an income as that arising out of that Union ?

I have no doubt that without the failure of the potato it might have supported its pauperism.

6984. Will you turn to the Union of Dunshaughlin; what is the valuation of the Union of Dunshaughlin ?

One hundred and eighteen thousand four hundred and eighty-six pounds.

6985. And the population ?

Twenty thousand nine hundred and eighty-five.

6986. Does not that give the sum of 5 *l.* 12 *s.* 10 *d.* per head ?

Yes.

6987. Whereas in Westport the valuation gives only 10 *s.* per head; is it not obvious that in the case of Dunshaughlin, the taxation for the support of the poor is very light; whereas the taxation for the support of the poor in Westport is exceedingly oppressive ?

The taxation will be heavier; but it would be a great mistake to suppose that there must necessarily be great destitution in a Union of which the valuation is low in proportion to the population.

6988. These are the distressed Unions to which your attention is now called ?

Yes.

6989. Is it your opinion, then, that the taxation gives anything near an equality over Ireland ?

The Poor Law taxation is unequal in amount over different provinces, over different Unions, and over different Electoral Divisions in Ireland.

6990. The same as it is in England ?

Yes.

6991. Whilst in one case it threatens the proprietors with the confiscation of their property, in the other case may it be borne without either the rate-payers or the landed proprietors suffering ?

That is so; in Selbridge Union the expenses during the year ending the 29th of September 1848 were in one Electoral Division only 3¾ *d.* in the pound, while in another Electoral Division of Ireland, namely, in the Electoral Division of Clifden Union, the expenses were 43 *s.* 1 *d.* in the pound; but inequalities of this kind necessarily arise from Ireland being divided at all into Electoral Divisions as areas of taxation for the support of its destitution.

6992. Does the existing law give to the Poor Law Commissioners adequate power of revising and correcting any valuations of the inaccuracy of which they may be satisfied ?

Yes.

6993. Are you aware that it is the custom in some of the Unions in Ireland to withhold the names of the occupiers of 4 *l.* and under ?

No, I am aware that in the rate-books and in the collecting-books in many

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Unions the names are not given, but they are in the valuation-books, and if the party has recourse to the valuation-books, he can find them out.

6994. Are you aware that in some instances reference to the valuation-book has been refused?

No, never; I am not aware of any such case; any one affected by any rate is entitled by law to inspect the valuation on which such rate shall have been made, at all times between 10 o'clock A. M., and 4 o'clock in the afternoon, Sundays excepted.

6995. If such a refusal had occurred in the Ballinrobe Union, and been represented to you, you would have censured it?

Certainly.

6996. Such a refusal would have been illegal?

Yes.

6997. Without the names of the occupiers, cannot you conceive it to be extremely difficult for the immediate lessor to know the occupation for which he is or is not liable?

Yes, unless he can find out the names, I can imagine certain cases in which it would be difficult.

6998. Have any instructions been given on this subject to the Vice-Guardians?

No, not to the Vice-Guardians particularly: when the subject has been brought under our notice, we have in many cases suggested that under the head of the description of the property in the rate-book the names should be stated, and I think it desirable that some such plan should be adopted generally.

6999. You are aware that the practice differs in different Unions?

Yes, it differs in different Unions; but they can always have recourse in any Union to the valuation.

7000. Are you not aware that in many cases the valuation-book is a book of many years' standing?

Yes, that is so; but still the name of the former occupier would be a guide to the occupation.

7001. It might be of such a long standing as to make it impossible to discover the names of the intermediate occupiers?

It might be so.

7002. Do not you think it would be a great advantage if the Commissioners were to issue instructions that for the future the occupier's column should be complete?

Not precisely the occupier's column; the form would be required to be altered. In the rate-book, where there are two columns, one for the occupier, the other for the immediate lessor; it is not intended that in that rate-book the name of the occupier should be put down. It will be seen that the general heading is, "Persons on whom the rate is made." Under that general heading there is a subdivision into two columns, one for the occupier, and the other for the immediate lessor; the intention is, that the occupier or the immediate lessor should be put down, as the case may be, just as one or the other is rated. Where I think it might be desirable to have the name of the occupier, is under the head of the description of property rated.

7003. May not one person hold many different occupations, each under 4*l.*, but in the aggregate exceeding 4*l.*, and would not that relieve the landlord from his responsibility?

Yes.

7004. Then withholding the names of the occupiers would make it exceedingly difficult for the landlord to ascertain whether his tenant's occupations within the Union are above or below 4*l.*?

Yes; I do not deem it at all desirable that the names should be withheld; I should be glad that they were always inserted.

7005. With reference to a statement made by Mr. Kincaid on the subject of

of certain proceedings in the Castlerea Union, have you any observation to make?

I have to state this to your Lordships, that Mr. Kincaid is the agent of the Marquis of Westmeath, and in Castlerea Union the Vice-Guardians were under the very unpleasant necessity of instituting legal proceedings against Lord Westmeath: practically speaking, however, this was a case rather between Mr. Kincaid and the Guardians of Castlerea Union; it was tried last Autumn, before one of the Superior Courts in Dublin; it was very fully argued upon each side, and it was decided against Mr. Kincaid. The way in which his evidence before your Lordships presents itself to my mind is rather as an appeal made from the decision of a Superior Court in Dublin to your Lordships' Committee. I received from Mr. Auchmuty, who is the Inspector of Castlerea Union, on November the 26th, the following letter in reference to this case: "Gentlemen; I beg to state, for the information of the Commissioners, that I attended on Thursday, the 23d instant, a motion instituted by the Marquis of Westmeath to stay the legal proceedings brought by the Vice-Guardians of this Union for the recovery of the rate made in 1847, and for which his Lordship was liable as immediate lessor. I have to observe, that neither my affidavit, nor that of Mr. Rogers, the Rate-collector, nor of Mr. Dillon, the Solicitor, was read in court. The four Judges that presided were unanimously of opinion that the Poor Law Commissioners used a sound and wise discretion by sanctioning the Vice-Guardians to bring the action in the Superior Court, and it did not appear to them the action was brought from any vindictive motives." Now I am, notwithstanding, perfectly willing to go into this case; I have read the depositions, and have formed an opinion upon them; and I am bound to say, with all possible respect to Mr. Kincaid, that this action arose mainly from a little neglect on his own part, and that if he had, at the proper period, merely gone to the valuation-books, and obtained the names, which he could have done, of the parties in this case, none of these unpleasant proceedings would have occurred.

7006. Is what you have read the order of the Court of Queen's Bench?
No.

7007. You have not with you the order of the Court of Queen's Bench in the case?
I have not; but I remember reading a report of what fell from the Chief Justice with regard to the propriety of the proceedings in this case.

7008. Was not this action in Dublin for the recovery of the costs of a previous action?
No; there was a motion instituted by the Marquis of Westmeath to stay legal proceedings brought by the Vice-Guardians of the Union for the recovery of the rate, on the ground that it was an improper case to bring before the Superior Courts; and therefore the gist of the case depended upon whether it was proper or was not proper to institute proceedings against him in the Superior Courts.

7009. Did the remarks of the Chief Justice go beyond this, that the Legislature had given to the Commissioners a discretionary power to institute proceedings in the Courts of Superior Record, and that they did not think that the duty devolved upon them of controlling that power?
It went further than that; he said that if the Commissioners saw that there was a spirit abroad of resistance to the payment of rate, this was a proper case wherein the Commissioners might give their sanction to proceedings in the Superior Courts.

7010. Were the remarks of the Chief Justice so positive, or did they go beyond this, that it might be a very proper course?
I do not want to insist on what was attributed to the Chief Justice in the newspapers, but I read in the report of the trial a statement to the effect of what I have just said.

7011. The Marquis of Westmeath has presented a petition which has been referred by the House of Lords to this Committee, in which he states, that for debts incurred, or for rates due in the county of Roscommon, he was prosecuted in the Superior Courts, when under the law he might have been equally proceeded against in the Inferior Courts, at a much less expense; he further states,

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that he had a place of residence in the county of Roscommon upon which the claims might have been made, and therefore that, in his opinion, it was a vindictive measure proceeding against him in the Superior Courts; how do you, as Commissioner, account for that?

In the first place, with regard to his having any residence in the county of Roscommon, that was not known to the Commissioners, or to the Guardians, or to the Inspector, or to the Solicitors of the Guardians; on this point, as to his residence in the county, there is the following deposition of Mr. Auchmuty on the subject.

7012. Who is Mr. Auchmuty?

The Inspector of Castlerea Union. "And this Deponent further saith, That he does not believe that the said Plaintiffs were aware that the said Defendant had a residence in the county of Roscommon," that is the Vice-Guardians: "And, on inquiry, this Deponent has been informed, and which he believes to be true, that the said Defendant has a small fishing-lodge on the Banks of the Shannon, which is the boundary of the county; and Deponent has been informed, that said Defendant has not occupied said lodge for the last three years, and that said lodge is about 30 miles from the said town of Castlerea, and about 40 miles from where the said Rogers, the Collector, resided." That is what the Inspector says; and there are two depositions by two Solicitors in the same way, who certainly were very well acquainted with the county, and were not aware that his Lordship had any residence in it: and I am bound to add, that Lord Westmeath's having a fishing-lodge there, if he had not been there for three years, would probably not constitute a residence; to reside in a place is different from occupation; it has a different legal meaning: to reside in a place you must eat, drink, and sleep there; I believe that is very well understood in law. You can occupy a place by your servants; but you cannot, in the legal sense, reside there yourself in that way.

7013. If Lord Westmeath has no residence in the county of Roscommon, has he no residence in the county of Westmeath?

Yes, I am speaking of this point, that he had no residence in the county of Roscommon, and he could not have been proceeded against under the 15 days' notice.

7014. Has he any residence in the county of Westmeath?

Yes.

7015. Would it not have been as easy, and far less costly, to have proceeded either before the Assistant Barrister, or before the Petty Sessions Court, than in the Superior Courts of Record?

That opens the whole question as to the general mode of proceeding, either by civil Bill, or the contrary.

7016. But do you not conceive that where you can proceed by a cheap mode, considering that the expenses must fall out of the rates in case of your success, it is due to the Union itself to adopt the cheaper mode, in preference to the more expensive mode?

That view may be taken: on the other hand, there are very great advantages in proceeding in the Superior Courts. You can have judgment on the land; in the other case, you have only judgment on the person.

7017. Is there any great advantage in having judgment upon the land in such a case as that of Lord Westmeath?

No; but I am speaking of the general principles: then in the Civil Bill Court they are much more likely to be shaken by objections; legal practitioners have not the same reliance in the Civil Bill Court as in the Superior Courts.

7018. Have you no case of appeal from the Inferior Court to the Superior?

No.

7019. There is no case of appeal in the Act?

No.

7020. Have you, in other instances, resorted to the Superior Courts?

Yes; but we discourage resorting to the Superior Courts in this way: there was a Committee of your Lordships on the subject last year, and the Committee expressed

expressed an opinion, that it was desirable not to proceed in the Superior Courts where the proceedings could be instituted by Civil Bill; since that, we have always required the Guardians, when they proposed to proceed in the Superior Courts, to state why they did not wish to proceed by Civil Bill.

7021. Since that period have there been any applications made which have been disallowed?
Yes, I think so.

7022. Was Lord Westmeath's case since or before that period?
That was before, decidedly.

7023. In consequence of the principle adopted upon that subject, have the applications for proceeding in the Superior Courts been less frequent?
Yes; I think also that, in many instances, parties have not been aware of any alteration in our practice in that respect; and in the country the effect of former proceedings has been, that when the Guardians have communicated with immediate lessors, such lessors have been more prompt to pay.

7024. It appears, from this petition, that the costs of that action were 33*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*, which were called for from Lord Westmeath, and that, upon taxing the account of the Solicitor, they were reduced to 23*l.* 2*s.* 3*d.*; is that the case?
That is possible: I would take this opportunity of observing, in reference to this case, Mr. Kincaid had paid the previous rate for Lord Westmeath on precisely the same tenements as those upon which it was afterwards disputed.

7025. But does it not appear with regard to this bill of costs, that the Solicitor must have acted in some degree dishonestly, when he made a charge which was reduced to so great an amount as 10*l.* out of 33*l.*?
Upon that particular point I do not know the particulars.

7026. He is a Solicitor sanctioned by the Commissioners, is he not?
No; the Commissioners have nothing to do with it at all.

7027. Then it is the Guardians alone that interfere in appointing him?
Yes; Mr. Kincaid had paid precisely the same rates previously on precisely the same holdings; upon that point there was this deposition of John Rogers, the collector: after stating that he had given him the usual return, on which his demand for the rate was founded, "Deponent saith, that the said Joseph Kincaid having objected to such return, inasmuch as it did not contain the names of the several occupiers of the holdings so as aforesaid rated at 4*l.* or under; upon which this Deponent asked said Kincaid why he objected to the return then furnished, inasmuch as he had paid the last preceding rate on being furnished with a similar return; to which the said Kincaid replied, that the former rate, being a small one, he did not make any objection to its payment; and Deponent saith, he then informed the said Kincaid, that the only book which could supply the names of the respective occupiers of the said several holdings so rated at 4*l.* and under, referred to by said rate-book, was the valuation-book, to which Deponent had not access, and that, if he had, he would willingly supply the required information."

7028. By the law, as it at present stands, have not the Guardians of a Union the power of rating any person, and to any extent, that they may think right or proper?
The power of rating in the first instance.

7029. And that rate-book is a *primâ facie* case against the rate-payer?
Yes, in the case of an occupier.

7030. The question alludes to the case of appeal; in that case do you not think that it is but right and just that the person rated should have every opportunity, on appeal, to rid himself of unjust rating?
He should have every fair opportunity certainly for ridding himself of unjust rating.

7031. Do you conceive that it is right or proper that an appellant should be denied resisting improper rating upon its merits by any little legal technicality?
If you had asked me what was desirable for any private individual, I should say there cannot be the least doubt about it; but the matter is rather different

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with a public Board, which is responsible to the rate-payers for collecting the rates as well as it can. It opens the door to underhand dealing, if you are not to go upon the strict legalities of the question. I feel a great difficulty in blaming any Board of Guardians for not going upon their strict legal rights.

7032. Have you heard of a case where an appellant was put out of Court in consequence of, in the recognizance, the parties being called the Guardians of a Union, instead of being called the Guardians of the Poor of that Union?"
Yes.

7033. Then, in consequence of a clerical error, and the omission of the word "Poor," that Appellant was precluded from defending himself upon the merits?
Yes, I consider it a defect in the state of the law in this country that such things should be.

7034. You are aware that such a thing has happened?
Yes.

7035. It was represented to you?
Yes.

7036. Did you give any instructions to the Guardians upon that subject?
I do not remember that I did. My impression, certainly, in a case of that sort, would be, not to interfere, because I do not see where you are to draw a line if they are once not to take advantage of legal points. As an individual, I should not hesitate for a moment, in a case of that sort, to waive any advantage arising from such technicalities; and I consider it an evil that there should be a state of the law in which such technicalities should be precluded from going into the merits of a case.

7037. But the error in a case of that kind must be in the Attorney or Solicitor who is employed in drawing up the proceedings?
Yes.

7038. Do you recollect any communication being made to the Commissioners by a Solicitor of the name of O'Donnell, stating the extraordinary grievance and hardship that at present weighed upon the rate-payer?
I do not recollect such a communication.

7039. Such a communication may have been made?
Very possibly.

7040. Again, in the case of Ballina was it stated to you that an Appellant was refused all redress or defence in consequence of his addressing the recognizance to the Vice-Guardians of the Ballina Union, instead of the Guardians of the Union?
I do not remember it; but I have very little doubt such a case may have occurred.

7041. If in the case of an appeal, where a person is rated on the 23d of November as immediate lessor, in an appeal dated on the 18th of December, the Appellant states that he "*is*" not immediate lessor, it should have been decided by the Assistant Barrister that the word should be "*was*" instead of "*is*," and the Appellant was in consequence denied all redress or defence; would you not conceive that an extraordinary case of hardship?
Yes; but I should like to know all the circumstances of the case. Put as your Lordship has put it, I should certainly consider it a defect in the law even that any person should be deprived of justice by those means.

7042. Do not you conceive that as the Guardians have so great an advantage as that their rate-book shall be received as *primâ facie* evidence, the Appellant should be allowed to defend himself on the merits?
I do; but I believe fully this, that it tells both ways; that it tells as well against the collection of the rates, which ought properly to be paid, as the contrary; it is as broad as it is long, as it is said.

7043. If one Appellant should have had 92 cases of appeal, and he should have proved successful in every case where he was allowed to go into the merits, would

would you not have a right to suppose that had he been allowed to go into the merits in the other cases he would have been successful throughout?

That is not an unreasonable inference.

7044. Do not you think that it would be but right, if in any alteration of the law for the future every facility were given to the Defendant to defend himself upon the merits?

Yes, I do indeed; but not only in regard to proceeding against immediate lessors, but likewise in regard to the whole system of law in this country. For example, what your Lordship states as to "*is*" and "*was*," and as to injustice having arisen from the improper use of those words, might arise in any case before a legal tribunal in England in regard to the pleadings; if you made improper use of words in that respect, a flaw might be found in your pleadings, and justice might be denied you.

7045. But while we are to have taxation, it would be but just to allow the party taxed to defend himself, and to show his non-liability?

Yes; but I do not confine that opinion merely to the case of immediate lessors.

7046. The question was not meant at all to be limited to the question of immediate lessors; but will you state distinctly whether you would not be glad to see an alteration in the law that would allow an Appellant every fair opportunity of defending himself upon the merits?

Decidedly; and I think that Appellants ought not to be permitted to defeat the Guardians, except upon the merits.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till Tuesday next, One o'clock.

Die Martis, 24° Aprilis 1849.

The LORD STEWARD in the Chair.

JOHN VANDELEUR STEWART, Esquire, is called in, and further examined as follows:

7047. WE have before us your previous examination; have you any further information to give to the Committee?

I have.

7048. Have you prepared a statement of the number of Unions and Electoral Divisions in which a Union rate in aid and a national rate in aid would be required in the event of the maximum being fixed in the one case at 5 *s.*, and in the other at 7 *s.*, and will you give it to the Committee?

Yes; I have prepared the Return, which I now present to your Lordships, with the view of showing the number of Unions and Electoral Divisions in which a Union rate in aid would be required; and also those in which a national rate in aid would be required, assuming the expenditure in 1849 will be the same as in 1848. It shows that a Union rate in aid will be required in 46 Unions for 282 Electoral Divisions, and a national rate in aid in 28 Unions for 157 Electoral Divisions; and, therefore, that the expenditure will exceed 5 *s.* in the pound in 46 Unions, and in 282 Electoral Divisions out of 641 Divisions in those 46 Unions.

The Witness delivers in the same, which is as follows:

A RETURN showing the Unions in *Ireland*, and the Number of Electoral Divisions in which the actual Expenditure in the Year ending 29 September 1848 exceeded a Rate of 5*s.*, but did not exceed 7*s.* in the Pound, and those in which it exceeded 7*s.* in the Pound, with the Highest Rate.

PROVINCE.	COUNTY.	UNION.	Number of Electoral Divisions above 5*s.*, and not more than 7*s.*, and therefore requiring a "Union Rate."	Number of Electoral Divisions above 7*s.*, and therefore requiring a "National Rate."	Total Number above 5*s.*, and therefore requiring Extraneous Aid.	Highest Rate requisite in any one Electoral Division in the Union.
						s. *d.*
ULSTER	Donegal	1 Glenties	1 out of 13	11 out of 13	12 out of 13	36 $8\frac{1}{4}$
	Cavan	2 Bailieborough	3 „ 11	1 „ 11	4 „ 11	7 8
	Armagh, Antrim, Down	3 Lurgan	1 „ 19	- - -	1 „ 19	5 4
	Donegal	4 Donegal	1 „ 11	- - -	1 „ 11	6 3
	Donegal	5 Letterkenny	1 „ 14	- - -	1 „ 14	5 1
	TOTAL	5 Unions	7 out of 68	12 out of 24	19 out of 68	36 $8\frac{1}{4}$
LEINSTER	Meath, Westmeath, Cavan	1 Oldcastle	2 out of 13	2 out of 13	4 out of 13	8 $1\frac{1}{3}$
	Westmeath, King's County	2 Tullamore	1 „ 12	- - -	1 „ 12	6 7
	Longford, Westmeath, Cavan	3 Granard	1 „ 15	- - -	1 „ 15	5 2
	Longford, Roscommon	4 Longford	4 „ 19	- - -	4 „ 19	6 8
	Queen's County	5 Abbeyleix	1 „ 11	- - -	1 „ 11	6 –
	King's and Queen's Counties	6 Mountmelick	1 „ 16	2 „ 16	3 „ 16	8 2
	Wexford, Kilkenny, Carlow	7 New Ross	2 „ 18	- - -	2 „ 18	6 $1\frac{1}{3}$
	TOTAL	7 Unions	12 out of 104	4 out of 29	16 out of 104	8 2
MUNSTER	Clare	1 Ennis	6 out of 18	8 out of 18	14 out of 18	12 $2\frac{3}{4}$
	Clare	2 Ennistymon	2 „ 13	8 „ 13	10 „ 13	12 1
	Clare	3 Kilrush	3 „ 13	8 „ 13	11 „ 13	10 $11\frac{3}{4}$
	Clare and Galway	4 Scariff	- - -	10 „ 10	10 „ 10	20 10
	Cork	5 Bantry	3 „ 9	4 „ 9	7 „ 9	9 $10\frac{1}{3}$
	Cork and Kerry	6 Kanturk	7 „ 14	3 „ 14	10 „ 14	8 –
	Kerry	7 Cahirciveen	3 „ 9	2 „ 9	5 „ 9	7 $4\frac{1}{3}$
	Kerry	8 Kenmare	- - -	7 „ 7	7 „ 7	16 $4\frac{1}{4}$
	Kerry	9 Killarney	6 „ 12	1 „ 12	7 „ 12	8 –
	Kerry	10 Listowel	12 „ 21	3 „ 21	15 „ 21	9 10
	Kerry	11 Dingle	2 „ 10	6 „ 10	8 „ 10	13 $6\frac{3}{4}$
	Kerry	12 Tralee	2 „ 8	- - -	2 „ 8	6 $10\frac{3}{4}$
	Limerick and Clare	13 Limerick	4 „ 19	- - -	4 „ 19	6 $2\frac{1}{2}$
	Limerick	14 Newcastle	6 „ 13	5 „ 13	11 „ 13	8 2
	Limerick	15 Rathkeale	4 „ 19	- - -	4 „ 19	6 $4\frac{1}{2}$
	Tipperary	16 Cashel	2 „ 17	- - -	2 „ 17	6 6
	Tipperary and Limerick	17 Clogheen	3 „ 12	- - -	3 „ 12	6 $-\frac{3}{4}$
	Tipperary, King's and Queen's Counties	18 Roscrea	3 „ 19	- - -	3 „ 19	5 8
	Tipperary	19 Thurles	2 „ 21	- - -	2 „ 21	7 –
	Tipperary and Limerick	20 Tipperary	2 „ 20	1 „ 20	3 „ 20	7 $11\frac{3}{4}$
	TOTAL	20 Unions	72 out of 267	66 out of 169	138 out of 284	20 10
CONNAUGHT	Galway and Roscommon	1 Ballinasloe	1 out of 22	- - -	1 out of 22	5 5
	Galway	2 Clifden	- - -	4 out of 4	4 „ 4	43 1
	Galway	3 Galway	3 „ 12	3 „ 12	6 „ 12	16 –
	Galway and Clare	4 Gort	2 „ 10	8 „ 10	10 „ 10	9 $3\frac{1}{3}$
	Galway	5 Loughrea	1 „ 15	- - -	1 „ 15	5 $1\frac{1}{4}$
	Galway	6 Tuam	2 „ 13	- - -	2 „ 13	6 $5\frac{1}{3}$
	Roscommon and Leitrim	7 Carrick-on-Shannon	4 „ 15	4 „ 15	8 „ 15	7 10
	Leitrim	8 Mohill	4 „ 13	1 „ 13	5 „ 13	7 2
	Sligo and Mayo	9 Ballina	4 „ 17	12 „ 17	16 „ 17	21 6
	Galway and Mayo	10 Ballinrobe	2 „ 14	12 „ 14	14 „ 14	21 $3\frac{1}{2}$
	Mayo	11 Castlebar	2 „ 10	8 „ 10	10 „ 10	22 9
	Mayo and Sligo	12 Swineford	4 „ 12	4 „ 12	8 „ 12	9 $1\frac{1}{4}$
	Mayo	13 Westport	- - -	10 „ 10	10 „ 10	36 7
	Roscommon and Galway	14 Roscommon	5 „ 18	9 „ 8	14 „ 18	12 4
	TOTAL	14 Unions	34 out of 171	75 out of 135	109 out of 185	43 1

RECAPITULATION.

ULSTER	Parts of 5 Counties	5 Unions	7 out of 68	12 out of 24	19 out of 68	36 $8\frac{1}{4}$
LEINSTER	Parts of 10 Counties	7 Unions	12 out of 104	4 out of 29	16 out of 104	8 2
MUNSTER	Parts of 6 Counties	20 Unions	72 out of 267	66 out of 169	138 out of 284	20 10
CONNAUGHT	Parts of 8 Counties	14 Unions	34 out of 171	75 out of 135	109 out of 185	43 1
	TOTAL	46 Unions	125 out of 610	157 out of 357	282 out of 641	43 1

7049. Can you give the Committee an estimate of the liabilities of some of the distressed Unions, with the view of showing how far the proposed rate in aid would be adequate, if it were collected on every rateable pound in Ireland?

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Yes; I have prepared with that view the estimate I now hand in, from official documents presented to Parliament. In my last answer I have shown that a Union rate in aid would be required in 46 Unions, and a national rate in aid in 28 Unions; and yet it will be seen by this estimate, that the whole national rate in aid will not provide for 13 Unions out of 28, even on the preposterous supposition that the whole of it would be collected.

The Witness delivers in the same, which is as follows:

AN ESTIMATE

AN ESTIMATE of the FINANCIAL CONDITION of THIRTEEN UNIONS, showing that the "Rate in Aid" will even be inadequate for them.

UNIONS.	Population.	Valuation.	Funds and Expenditure in 1848.				Liabilities for 1849.				Assets for 1849.				OBSERVATIONS.
			Rate collected in 1848.	Grants in Aid, 1848.	TOTAL Funds in 1848.	Expenditure in 1848.	Debts due 27 January 1849.	Relief Advances due 1849.	Expenditure same as in 1848.	TOTAL Liabilities.	Outstanding Rate, 1849.	Rates as collected in 1848.	TOTAL supposed Assets.	Deficit.	
	1841:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	1849:	
1. Ballina	120,787	95,770	10,177	36,260	46,437	52,282	18,360	13,716	52,282	84,358	5,032	10,177	15,209	69,149	This Statement, with regard to the Financial condition of these nine Unions, is taken from the last "Papers on Distressed Unions," laid before Parliament, which brings the Account down to 27th January 1849.
2. Bantry	56,165	41,874	6,609	3,400	10,009	12,321	6,604	6,079	12,321	25,004	2,832	6,609	9,441	15,563	
3. Clifden	33,465	19,216	2,529	17,666	20,195	23,405	6,534	3,228	23,405	33,168	1,442	2,529	3,971	29,197	
4. Galway	66,436	101,413	7,457	23,993	31,450	33,810	10,118	14,029	33,810	57,957	11,242	7,457	18,699	39,258	
5. Gort	43,543	53,037	8,225	3,200	11,425	20,121	9,097	7,663	20,121	36,881	5,663	8,225	13,888	22,993	
6. Kenmare	33,656	24,492	6,014	5,461	11,475	12,663	6,710	3,358	12,663	22,731	1,139	6,014	7,153	15,578	
7. Kilrush	82,353	59,228	12,439	6,780	19,219	21,992	8,053	8,555	21,992	38,600	3,621	12,439	16,060	22,540	
8. Scariff	53,563	44,960	14,590	13,580	28,170	28,119	11,072	6,406	28,119	45,597	5,043	14, 9	19,633	25,964	
9. Westport	77,952	38,876	6,113	21,020	27,133	27,418	6,639	5,624	27,418	39,681	4,992	6,113	11,105	28,576	
TOTAL of 9 Unions	567,920	478,866	74,153	131,360	205,513	232,131	83,188	68,658	232,131	383,977	41,006	74,153	115,159	268,818	
1. Ballinrobe	85,031	85,217	8,533	29,709	38,242	37,653	2,457	12,183	37,653	52,293	5,600	8,533	14,133	38,160	This Statement is taken from the first Papers laid before Parliament on its assembling, and brings the Account down to 29th September 1848.
2. Castlebar	61,063	50,981	4,216	21,690	25,906	27,008	5,273	7,228	27,008	39,509	5,874	4,116	10,090	29,419	
3. Carrick-on-Shannon	67,077	61,450	8,874	10,284	19,158	17,911	5,752	8,395	17,911	32,058	3,852	8,874	12,726	19,332	
4. Ennistymon	49,935	67,486	18,698	1,000	19,698	25,921	8,556	9,644	25,921	43,821	2,636	18,698	21,334	22,487	
TOTAL of 4 Unions	263,106	265,134	40,321	62,683	103,004	108,493	21,738	37,450	108,493	167,681	17,962	40,321	58,283	109,398	
TOTAL of 13 Unions	831,026	744,000	114,474	194,043	308,517	340,624	104,926	106,108	340,624	551,658	58,968	114,474	173,442	378,216	
Deduct amount of 6 *d.* Rate in Aid on £. 13,187,421														£. 329,685	
														£. 48,531	

The Witness.] Thus supposing the entire amount of this rate in aid to be actually paid on every rateable pound in Ireland, there would still be a deficiency of 48,531*l.* for 13 Unions alone, omitting 14 other Unions in aid of whose rates the Government and British Association had to advance 47,609*l.* in 1848. But at the close of the year ending 29th September 1848, there were 86 Unions in debt on their current expenses, to the amount of 268,273*l.*; and as these Unions were unable to discharge their own liabilities, it is not easy to see how they are to discharge by a rate in aid the debts of other Unions; and therefore, the rate in aid must fall on the remaining 45 Unions, of which 20 are in Ulster, 12 in Leinster, 12 in Munster, and one in Connaught. The above estimate refers to only 13 of the insolvent Unions, and it also supposes that the same amount of rate can be collected in them that was enforced in 1848; the enforcement of which has reduced so many farmers to the class of paupers, and ruined so many small capitalists and proprietors, as is admitted by the Commissioners, Inspectors and Vice-Guardians in all their Reports. This estimate is also framed on the supposition that the number of paupers in these bankrupt Unions will not exceed in 1849 the number on the lists in 1848,—an assumption which is directly negatived by the Reports of the Inspectors, and by a comparison of the numbers now on the lists with those at the corresponding period in 1848; and there can be little doubt, that as the rate-paying classes become pauperised, the pauper lists must necessarily increase in a geometric progression. In many Unions the third of the rate-payers have relinquished their land, which now lies waste: all land is depreciated in value; and, therefore, the rateable property is diminished (it is believed nearly one-third), and consequently the rate in aid, even if it could be equitably levied and enforced, would never produce the sum required, and a great portion of outstanding rates is irrecoverable, and will never be realised.

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7050. Can you give the Committee a Return or comparative Statement of the rates in six Unions to which no assistance has been given in aid of rates, as contrasted with the rates in six others, to which a very large amount has been given in aid of rates by the Poor Law Commission?

The Return I now hand in will show how unequally the aid has been extended by the Commissioners to the distressed Unions; it shows the six Unions in which the highest poundage rates were struck and put in course of collection (the lowest of them being 11*s.* in the pound), during the year ending September the 29th, 1849, and to which no grants were made; and I contrast them with six others, whose highest rate was 7*s.* 7*d.*, and to which grants amounting to 150,338*l.* were made in aid of rates.

Unions to which no Aid was granted.	Rate in Collection.	DATES of RATES.	Unions to which Aid was granted.	Rate in Collection.	Amount of Grants in Aid.
	s. *d.*			*s.* *d.*	£.
Newcastle	14 –	Dec. 1847 - April 1848 -	Ballina -	7 7	36,260
Kanturk -	12 7	Nov. 1847: Mar. & Sept. 1848	Ballinrobe -	6 8¼	29,709
Tullamore -	12 7	April 1848 - Sept. 1848 -	Galway -	6 –	23,993
Limerick -	10 3	Sept. 1847 - Sept. 1848 -	Castlebar -	5 6½	21,690
Tipperary -	11 –½	- - June 1848 - -	Westport -	6 9	21,020
Bailieborough	11 –	Dec. 1847 - Apr. 1848 -	Clifden -	6 6¼	17,666
Average -	11 10			6 5	
			TOTAL - - - £.		150,338

It is also remarkable, that out of the first six, three only were under the management of Vice-Guardians, but the six last were all under the control of Vice-Guardians.

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7051. An opinion prevailing that the Electoral Divisions in towns are more heavily rated for the relief of the poor than the rural divisions in the same Union, and that this excess results from numbers who have been evicted in rural districts crowding into the towns and villages, do you consider this to be the fact; and can you give the Committee a Return of all those Unions in which the rate in a civic district is not exceeded by the rate in several rural districts in the same Union?

There is great misapprehension on this subject. I have been surprised at so many persons officially cognizant with the Poor Law endeavouring to discover a remedy for that which does not exist, and is not the fact; the generally received opinion is, that Town Electoral Divisions are taxed for the Poor Law, at a higher rate per pound than the rural districts. The Return I now hand in to your Lordships will show that there are only 19 Unions in which the civic district rate is not exceeded by several rural Electoral Divisions in the Union.

The Witness delivers in the same, which is as follows:

A RETURN showing those Unions in which the Amount per Pound of the Annual Expenditure in the Year ending September 1848 on the Valuation exceeded in Town Electoral Divisions the Amount per Pound in any of the Rural Electoral Divisions, together with the Poundage Rate of such Excess.

PROVINCE.	UNION.	EXCESS.	OBSERVATIONS.
		s. *d.*	
Ulster - -	Ballycastle - -	1 9	
	Lisburn - - -	– 6½	
	Newtownards - -	– 11	
Munster - -	Ennistymon - -	3 2¾	This division includes 16,652 acres.
	Cahir - - -	– 4½	
	Carrick-on-Shannon -	– 2	
	Cashel - - -	1 –	
	Thurles - - -	1 9	
Leinster - -	Balrothery - -	– 3	
	Dublin - - -	– 11½	
	Athy - - -	– 1	
	Parsonstown - -	– 4¾	
	Tullamore - -	2 4½	This division includes 15,999 acres.
	Drogheda - -	– 9¾	
	Navan - - -	– 2¾	
	Wexford - - -	– 5½	
	Rathdrum - -	– 1¼	
	Baltinglass - -	– 5¼	
Connaught -	Clifden - - -	20 4¼	This division includes 20,000 acres.

The Witness.] Thus, out of 131 Unions, there are but 19 in which the Town Electoral Division Rate exceeds that in any rural districts, and that excess is but in six cases above 1*s.* in the pound, and in the three largest of these the excess is, strictly speaking, a rural excess: on the other hand, the excess in rural districts is often double, and in some cases three times the rate in the Town Electoral Divisions.

7052. Can you give the Committee your estimate of the probable amount of the receipts of an income tax in Ireland at 7*d.* in the pound?

I calculate that the income tax could not bring into the Imperial Treasury above 250,000*l.*, and out of that would have to be deducted whatever its collection exceeded 41,666*l.* I calculate the income of Great Britain thus: the amount of income tax collected in 1846 was, in

		Income.
Schedule A.	£. 2,528,721, representing property of	£. 86,990,005 at 7*d.*
Schedule B.	- 324,339, representing occupiers of -	11,120,194 at 7*d.*
Schedule C.	- 744,019, representing funds, &c -	25,509,222 at 7*d.*
Schedule D.	- 1,678,595, representing trades, &c. -	57,551,828 at 7*d.*
Schedule E.	- 327,769, representing salaries, &c.	11,237,794 at 7*d.*
Tax -	£. 5,603,443, representing income of -	£. 192,409,043

I calculate

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I calculate the income of Ireland thus:

	£.
Schedule A.: rateable property in 1843, 13,187,421*l.* in gross, reduced one-fourth by depreciation, 3,296,855*l.*	9,890,566
Schedule B.: occupiers over 300*l.* per annum (supposed)	300,000
Schedule C.: funds, the actual dividends	1,490,289
Schedule D.: trade, &c. one-eighteenth and a half of England	3,110,909
Schedule E.: salaries, supposed, one-tenth of England	1,123,779
	£. 15,915,543
Deduct, absentees already paying income tax in England £. 5,000,000	
Ditto mortgagees ditto	5,000,000
	£. 10,915,543

Tax 291,666*l.* on net amount, say 10,000,000*l.* at 7*d.* The sum in Schedule D. is got from the return of the amount of Capital on which legacy duty was paid in Great Britain and Ireland in 1846 and 1847; viz.

	1846:	1847:
Great Britain	£. 42,630,687	£. 43,611,642
Ireland	2,312,008	2,363,573

being in the proportion of 18½ to one; and I therefore assume that the property in Schedule D. ought to bear a similar proportion to each other in both countries. From this estimate, the gross income of Ireland would appear to be about one-twentieth of that of England, and yet its population is as eight to thirteen, or very nearly three-fourths. In calculating the income of England, I have omitted all incomes under 150*l.* per annum, which are estimated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer at one-fourth of the whole, and, therefore, the true income of Great Britain would be 240,511,303*l.*

7053. Will you give the Committee a return of the liabilities of some of the counties in Ireland, and their local taxation, with a view of showing the relative taxation of England and Ireland?

Upon the subject of the relative taxation of England and Ireland, it appears to me that great misapprehension exists, and I feel certain that an inquiry into the existing burdens on property in Ireland must prove that her taxation is quite disproportioned to her resources. The return which I will now give your Lordships of the liabilities of five counties in Ireland proves this to be the fact, and that the average local taxation of Ireland is 8*s.* 4*d.* in the pound, while in England the same taxation is only 2*s.* in the pound. The Return printed by the House of Commons July 1847, No. 718, shows that the annual amount of taxes repealed in Great Britain from 1814 to 1846 has been 51,236,420*l.*, but in Ireland during the same period it has been only 2,903,995*l.*, a difference in favour of England of 48,332,425*l.*; and if we take the following new taxes recently imposed on Ireland, viz.

Annual poor-rate expenditure, and debts of 1848	2,119,798
Annual repayment of relief advances for 10 years	272,821
Increased duties on stamps and spirits (estimated at)	367,000
we have of new taxes a total of	£. 2,759,619

and, deducting this amount from all the taxes repealed in Ireland since 1814, it is clear that Ireland is now paying in direct taxes within 144,376*l.* per annum of all the direct and indirect taxes she was paying in 1814, without any reference to other taxes that may have been imposed in the interim; and if an income tax of 291,666*l.*, or a rate in aid of 329,685*l.* be now imposed, she will be paying much more than she paid in 1814: on the other hand, it cannot be denied that England having been relieved of 51,236,420*l.* of annual taxation, is at this moment paying much less taxation than in 1814, or else all the boasts of successive

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cessive Chancellors of the Exchequer have been untrue, and all the theories of political economists delusive: it is therefore clearly demonstrable, that the taxation of England has been vastly decreased, while that of Ireland has been increased, and that therefore the charge of inadequate taxation as against Ireland at present is not only wholly unjust, but absolutely contrary to the fact; and I therefore feel certain that the imposition of either "a rate in aid" or "an income tax," without an inquiry into the relative taxation of both countries, will create such a feeling of injury and sense of injustice in Ireland as will peril the existing Poor Law, and involve the country in consequences for which the income which either of those taxes may produce will be but a small recompense. The same Parliamentary Paper will show that Ireland has remitted to the British Exchequer, from 1796 to 1847, 27,335,453 *l.* 8 *s.* 3 *d.*, while the British Exchequer has remitted to the Irish Exchequer during the same period 8,421,274 *l.* 8 *s.* 4½ *d.*, which shows a surplus, remitted from Ireland to Great Britain, of 18,904,178 *l.* 19 *s.* 10½ *d.*, being a surplus of 535,989 *l.* per annum.

The Witness delivered in the following Paper:

A Return showing the Liabilities of certain Counties, supposing the maximum limit of Poor-rate to be fixed at 7 *s.* 6 *d.* in the Pound.

County Clare.

	s.	*d.*	
Repayment of relief works	1	10¼	in the pound for 10 years.
County cess (average of 3 years)	2	6½	for ever.
Poor-rate (maximum limit)	7	6	till the law is changed.
Relief advances (Burgoyne's commission)	2	10	for one year.
	14	8¾	in the pound on Poor Law valuation.
Add one-fourth for depreciation of rateable property	3	8	
Liabilities of Clare	18	4¾	in the pound.

County Mayo.

	s.	*d.*	
Repayment of relief works	1	4	for 10 years.
County cess (average of 3 years)	2	–½	for ever.
Poor-rate (maximum limit)	7	6	till the law is changed.
Relief advances (Burgoyne's commission)	3	–¾	for one year.
	13	11½	in the pound on Poor Law valuation.
Add one-fourth for depreciation of rateable property	3	5½	
Liabilities of Mayo	17	4¾	in the pound.

County Kerry.

	s.	*d.*	
Repayment of relief works	–	10	for 10 years.
County cess (average of 3 years)	2	2½	for ever.
Poor-rate (maximum limit)	7	6	till the law is changed.
Relief advances (Burgoyne's commission)	2	8½	for one year.
	13	3	in the pound on Poor Law valuation.
Add one-fourth for depreciation of rateable property	3	3¾	
Liabilities of Kerry	16	6¾	in the pound.

County of Galway.

	s.	*d.*	
Repayment of relief works	–	11	for 10 years.
County cess (average of 3 years)	1	5½	for ever.
Poor-rate (maximum limit)	7	6	till the law is changed.
Relief advances (Burgoyne's commission)	2	6½	for one year.
	12	5	in the pound on Poor Law valuation.
Add one-fourth for depreciation of rateable property	3	1¼	
Liabilities of Galway	15	6¼	in the pound.

COUNTY LIMERICK.

	s.	d.	
Repayment of relief works	–	9¼	for 10 years.
County cess (average of 3 years)	1	2	for ever.
Poor-rate (maximum limit)	7	6	till the law is changed.
Repayment of relief advance (Burgoyne's commission)	2	7	for one year.
	12	–¼	in the pound on Poor Law valuation.
Add one-fourth for depreciation of rateable property	3	–	
Liabilities of LIMERICK	15	–¼	in the pound.

The Witness.] The payment of the constabulary is deducted out of the average of county cess: one-fourth additional taxation is added for the depreciation of the value of rateable property, as it is in effect the same whether you add one-fourth to the tax, or depreciate the property out of which it is paid one-fourth. Mr. Griffith has proved before the Committee that one-fourth is less than he would have to deduct on a re-valuation of Ireland; and the above poundage-rate is taken upon the rack-rent, or Poor Law valuation, made previous to 1844; and in these calculations no allowance is made for lands lying waste, on which no rates can be raised, and by which an additional burden is shifted to other lands under tillage.

	£.
The annual property in England rateable to the poor, as calculated by the Chancellor of Exchequer, is	100,000,000
The local taxation, viz., poor-rates, church-rates, highway-rates, and similar charges	10,000,000

being a tax of only 2*s.* in the pound.

		£.
The annual value of property rateable to the poor in Ireland by valuation of 1842 and 1843, was	£. 13,187,421	
I deduct one-fourth for depreciation, according to Mr. Griffith's evidence	3,296,855	
		9,890,566
1st, the local taxation is, poor-rates expended in 1848	£. 1,855,841	
2d, county cess (annual average)	1,142,302	
3d, repayment of relief advances for 10 years	272,821	
4th, repayment of relief advances (Burgoyne's commission) for one year	953,355	
		4,124,319

being a tax of 8*s.* 4*d.* on the present depreciated rack-rent value, or 6*s.* 2*d.* in the pound on the valuation of 1842 and 1843.

7054. What do you consider to be the depreciation of Irish property?

The depreciation of the rateable property of Ireland is much more than a fourth. Land hitherto set in small patches, and with great competition for it, could fairly pay a high rent, and was certain to bring it under a system of potato cultivation, the food of the occupier forming so material an element in its value, but with a destruction of that system of cultivation that competition must cease, and those rents must fall; but, independent of that consideration, and of the great depreciation in the price of all agricultural produce, which must force all the poorer soils into grazing; the charges incident on the Poor Laws and famine form another and most serious item of depreciation, and these charges must now, on a re-valuation, be deducted out of the rateable property of Ireland. I have already shown, as an example, that the existing charges in Clare (even with a maximum rate of 7*s.* 6*d.* for Poor Laws) is 14*s.* 8¼*d.* in the pound on the Poor Law valuation of 1842 and 1843; and if from this we deduct for county cess 2*s.* 6*d.*, and for poor-rate 1*s.* 6*d.*, the amounts deducted at the period of that valuation in 1842 and 1843, we have 10*s.* 8¼*d.* in addition to be deducted at the next valuation, which would reduce the existing valuation more than one-half on these items alone.

7055. The liabitities you have now mentioned are local burdens, but the income tax in England is paid in addition to its local burdens: what distinction, therefore would you draw between the local burdens of England and Ireland?

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There is this material distinction, which ought not to be lost sight of; in England all the poor-rate is paid by the occupier; in Ireland three-fourths of it is paid by the proprietor: in England the poor-rate is an incidence on the land of 300 years' existence; all property has been purchased subject to it, and all its arrangements made with reference to the liability to this payment, and it is therefore on the same footing with tithes or rent-charges. In Ireland it is a new tax, and all the land has been purchased, settled and let, divested from poor-rate. In England, 10 years since, there was no income tax, and in Ireland there was no poor-rate. In England 7*d.* in the pound of income tax has been imposed; in Ireland also a new tax, but averaging near 3*s.* in the pound, has been imposed in a poor-rate. In England it was proposed to make the 7*d.* a shilling, but Parliament objected; in Ireland it is proposed to add to the Irish tax what would in many cases be equivalent to 1*s.* in the pound as contrasted with other localities, and Ulster and Leinster object. I make this comparison on the average of Ireland; but if particular districts be taken, such as Kanturk, that which is only an additional payment in England of 7*d.*, has been a new payment of 12*s.* in Ireland (omitting all the repayments for relief works), and therefore the increased taxation in these cases is as 20 to one. At the time of imposing the income tax, 4,306,746*l.* of other taxes were repealed, and many other advantages given to Great Britain; in Ireland only 228,815*l.* of taxes were repealed; but stamp and spirit duties more than equivalent were added; and, in contrasting the relative resources of the two countries, with a view to an equitable distribution of taxation, it is to be recollected, that the repeal of the Corn Laws has operated with vastly greater severity on Ireland than England; that measure was offered as a boon to the manufacturing interest, in which Ireland had but little share, and has been attended with that reduction in the price of grain which it was intended to produce: in England the agricultural population is only 22 per cent., while in Ireland it is 64 per cent., and therefore the relative loss to the agricultural interest has been as 22 to 64: in England the manufacturing population is 46 per cent., but in Ireland it is only 18 per cent., and therefore the relative gain between England and Ireland by a repeal of the Corn Laws has been in the proportion of 46 to 18, and thus England in her agricultural interest lost only the third of what Ireland did, while the compensating gain to the manufacturing interest of England was much more than double that of Ireland.

7056. Is there, in your opinion, any disposition in Ireland to resist the payment of her fair share of taxation?

I believe the universal feeling in Ireland is, that there was a relative scale of taxation established at the period of the Union; that the policy of Parliament has been for some years to adopt those measures which were considered as more peculiarly calculated to benefit the manufacturing interests of England; that those measures have pressed with undue severity on the agricultural interests; and that therefore Ireland, as a peculiarly agricultural country, has suffered more severely than England; that she is now paying more than her due share of increased taxation; and that before any new taxes are imposed upon her, a full inquiry into this subject ought to be instituted; and she would then most cheerfully submit to whatever taxation Parliament might decide she ought to bear upon a due cosideration of the relative position and resources of both countries. And I think that, with an equality of taxation, she is also entitled to expect an equality in all other respects, and that it is most unjust, with an equality of taxation, to throw three-fourths of the poor-rate on the proprietor in Ireland, while the whole rate is paid by the occupier in England.

7057. Have the Unions in Ireland repudiated the repayment of the Workhouse loans?

It is not the fact that the Unions in Ireland have repudiated the repayment of the Workhouse loans; many of the Union Workhouses were not opened until 1844, the year previous to the famine; and, indeed, many of the instalments were not advanced until that year, and therefore not repayable until 1845. Forty-seven Unions have already made repayments amounting to 36,220*l.*; and this, with 47,268*l.* surcharged, and subsequently deducted, has liquidated 83,488*l.* of the original debt, and the total arrear with interest due in January 1847 was only 151,588*l.* 10*s.* It is ungenerous to accuse Ireland, suffering under a famine since 1845, and relieving nearly one million out of eight millions of her population, of a repudiation of this debt, when she is even now unable to meet

meet her local engagements for the support of her poor, 86 Unions being in debt in September 1848, 268,273 *l.* Ireland is so clear from the charge of repudiation, that an anxious wish was felt to have these repayments put on a practicable and satisfactory footing, with a view to discharge them. I accompanied a number of the Irish Members in several interviews which they had with Sir Thomas Fremantle and Mr. Goulburn, with the view of obtaining an equalization of the rates of repayment, by extending the period in poorer districts, such as Dunfanaghy, which would have to repay in the proportion of 2 *l.* 16 *s.* per cent., while Dublin would only have to repay at the rate of 4 *d.* per cent. A reference to the Return of Turnpike Trusts, presented to Parliament March 21st, 1849, No. 143, shows that England might with equal justice be charged with a repudiation of repayments, some of them due since 1817, and on which more than 151,000 *l.* is due out of original loans amounting to 205,150 *l.*; and the Returns presented to Parliament show how regularly the loans for county works have been paid by Ireland: in my county, Donegal, not one shilling is due. I would also add, that in the year ending September 29th, 1848, the Boards of Guardians in Ireland expended 58,231 *l.* in additional buildings to procure additional accommodation for paupers, and that it is not therefore fair to charge Ireland with a repudiation of her debts, in consequence of her temporary inability to meet her ordinary engagements, while suffering under the pressure of a calamity, which the Turnpike Trusts in England, and other parties to whom advances have been made, cannot allege as a palliation for their repudiation. And if the other extraordinary expenses incident on the famine since 1845 were added to the items I have enumerated, it would be found that the rateable property of Ireland had paid in extraordinary expenses more than what the building instalments would have amounted to; and I therefore think that the charge of repudiation against Ireland is unfounded and unjust, and that no grounds for additional taxation exist on that account. If the account between the county Donegal and the Treasury were balanced, it would be found that the Treasury are indebted to the public charities of that county many thousand pounds, and that the Treasury set that county the example of repudiation.

7058. The Committee have heard that you were the purchaser of an estate in the county of Clare, sold under a decree of the Courts in Ireland; can you give the Committee a statement of the circumstances attending that purchase, and the inconveniences you have been exposed to as the purchaser?

Yes; I purchased an estate in the Kilrush Union, in the county Clare, under the Court of Exchequer, and the statement I will now give your Lordships will show the injustice to which purchasers are exposed who buy under the Courts, and the great social evils which result from the present system. The late Colonel M'Mahon, of Clonina, in the county Clare, died, leaving some debts and family charges upon his estate. A bill was filed in the Court of Exchequer to raise those charges, and a receiver was appointed over the estate in 1813. The estate was sold under a decree of the Court in 1838 or 1839 after most tedious proceedings and great costs to Mr. Hardy, of the county Cork: on an examination into the title, it was discovered that there was technical defect in it, and Mr. Hardy was freed from the purchase. In June 1843 it was again sold, under an amended decree, to obviate this defect; and as I was led to believe, from the previous proceedings, that no delay or difficulty could arise with regard to the title, and that from the previous investigation and amended decree I should in a short time be put into possession of it, I became the purchaser, and had (according to the invariable practice of the Courts) to lodge the whole purchase-money in court, without the possibility of knowing anything about the title, except the scanty and garbled particulars contained in a printed rental, and the conditions of sale cunningly drawn up by able counsel to gloss over the difficulties of the title, and to bind the purchaser. From that day to this, within a month of six years, I have not been put into possession of it, and do not expect I shall be for two years more. These delays have resulted from the nature of the proceedings under the Courts, and from the deceptions in the rental, and the conditions of sale; no abstract of the title could be procured until after the purchase-money was lodged in court, and until many months after the sale, and even then it was produced in so imperfect a shape as to involve me in considerable expense and difficulty. On a further examination into the title, it was discovered that the property, which was represented to contain about 9,000 statute acres, did not contain

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contain within 1,200 acres of the quantity stated in the rental; that property represented as fee-simple, was leasehold, with a power of re-entry, and a reservation of the royalties; that leases stated in the rental to have been made for ever, at insufficient rents, and directly contrary to powers, were made with full powers, and were binding and valid; that several reversionary leases, also stated to have been made contrary to powers, were equally binding and valid, and subsequently, in 1848, it was discovered that several other reversionary leases, not set out on the rental, were in existence and valid, and on one of which the receiver has continued up to this to receive the original rent reserved under the old lease, and in the reversionary lease, instead of the additional and improved profit rent of 30 *l.* per annum, stated in the rental to have accrued by the fall of the lease before I purchased. Upon these objections to the title, after expensive proceedings and long arguments, the Remembrancer decided in my favour, and reported to the Barons of the Exchequer that I should be freed from the purchase. The vendors objected to this decision of the Remembrancer, and at the end of nearly five years from the date of the purchase, the decision of the Remembrancer was reversed, and I was held to be bound by the purchase, the Barons deciding that I did not object to the leasehold tenure and royalties at the proper moment (though I did so as soon as it was discovered); and with regard to the leases for ever and in reversion, it was decided that I had no right to speculate on the truth of statements set forth in the rentals by the vendors, who were in the possession of the title-deeds, and though I could have no possible access to them to ascertain their untruth; and with regard to the reversionary leases not set out in the rental, and to the deficiency of 1,200 acres, they decided that I was entitled to compensation, but not to be freed from the purchase, although the large area of the property, and the lapse of the leases, enabling me to improve the estate, were the main inducements to the purchase. Under this decision, we are now engaged in the truly Irish and rather difficult process of obtaining an accurate valuation of 1,200 acres, which do not exist, and in endeavouring to obtain secondary evidence of the existence of the reversionary leases, which I cannot force the production of without equity suits in each case, and which it is the interest of the vendors and tenants to withhold until my opportunity for obtaining redress is past. Against this decision I was advised to appeal to the House of Lords by eminent counsel, but was deterred from doing so by the fearful cost already incurred. The result of these proceedings has been, that for the last six years I have neither received the interest of the purchase-money, nor the rents of the estate; I have had no one to protect it from ruin and taxation during the recent years of famine, or to aid the people (as I did in Donegal), except the receiver, who is not employed by me, and looks alone to the receipt of rents; and the consequence has been, that all the evicted paupers of adjoining estates have crowded into it, while I have had no power to exercise the slightest control over the property, and the vendors are in no way interested in the welfare of the estate, as I am bound by the purchase. The widow of Colonel M'Mahon became the inheritor of the estate on the death of her youngest son, and she died lately of a broken heart, and without the common necessaries of life, though the original charges in 1813 were comparatively small in amount; on her death fresh proceedings had to be taken, a new bill filed, a new decree pronounced, and now we have to discover her heir in America. That such a system must prove ruinous to all parties is evident; the vendors, the purchasers, the mortgagees, and the tenants are equally injured by it. The vendors, by deterring purchasers, as I know it has done; the purchasers, by the certain ruin of their future estates, and by inability to live for six or eight years without any income; the mortgagees, by the expenditure in law costs of that which is their security, often leaving a sum insufficient to meet their claims; and to the tenants, by having no one to look to their interest, or to promote improvement, but a receiver in no way interested in the property or their prosperity. In this case, the capital I had intended to expend in the improvement of the property will all be spent in law costs, in a fruitless attempt to obtain that which the vendors professed to sell to me, and in the maintenance of my family, while so large a portion of my income is locked up in the court; this is not an uncommon case; two friends of my own, Mr. Chambers and Mr. Hamilton, purchased two estates on the same day I did under the Courts. Mr. Chambers, at the end of four years, was forced to take what his counsel pronounced was not the title under which he bought, and Mr. Hamilton, at the end of six years, has, I believe,

I believe, been freed from his, after most expensive proceedings, during which, I believe, the tenants paid no rent, and have, by their lawless proceedings in the Union of Glenties, seriously involved the general peace and order of that portion of Donegal in which it is situated. To an unprofessional mind a simple cure for some of these evils would be to force the vendors to prove their titles to the satisfaction of the Court before the sale, and thus all parties would know what was sold and bought, and to invalidate all reversionary leases, unless registered in the courts at the time of execution.

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7059. The management of these estates, and the delay in making out the title to purchasers, must prove a serious social evil as connected with the administration of the Poor Laws?

The mismanagement of these estates under the Courts is a serious social evil, and inflicts the greatest possible injustice on other proprietors who have the misfortune to be joined to them in the same Electoral Division. These properties become, from subdivision, mismanagement and pauperism, plague-spots, to diffuse disorganization and crime in their neighbourhoods: the tenants become demoralized, and the purchaser probably is ruined, or possibly assassinated, in a vain attempt to restore order, and assert his rights. The accumulation of arrears of rent on them is very great; on 678 properties, under the control of the Court of Chancery alone, these arrears had accumulated from 39,358*l.*, at the time the receivers were appointed, to 347,226*l.* in 1841; what they are now in 1849 it would be difficult to guess.

7060. Do you think that, striking off the outstanding arrears of rate in districts where they have been allowed to accumulate to such an extent as to discourage cultivation, would be a judicious measure?

I am of opinion that such a principle would be a most dangerous one to act upon. It would be impossible to define by Act of Parliament the instances and circumstances in which such a remission should be made. It is to be recollected that these outstanding arrears are the security or fund out of which outstanding debts, amounting at the close of the year ending September 29th, 1849, to 271,163*l.* are to be paid; and just in proportion as these arrears are remitted, so must a corresponding amount of claim arise upon the "rate in aid," independent of its application to the future support of paupers; and, therefore, the operation of such a provision would be to throw the debts of these districts, as well as the support of their paupers, upon those Unions which have had the honesty to discharge their own debts and pay their own rates, often (as I know) by mortgaging their future resources, and at the ruin of the rate-paying classes. It must be clear, therefore, that if such a principle be adopted, all the distinctions between right and wrong, between honesty and dishonesty, between industry and idleness, must be annihilated, and that the defaulting districts will in future be as numerous as this inducement to become so will be great. The Return I have already submitted to the Committee, exhibiting the unequal distribution of aid to six Unions, as contrasted with six others to which no aid was afforded, will show how dangerous it would be for Parliament to entrust any officers with the exercise of an indefinite discretion in such a matter, and peculiarly so with funds contributed by a limited portion of the Empire, and not drawn from the Imperial Exchequer. I think that the adoption of such a principle would be a most unanswerable argument against a "national rate in aid," as distinguished from aid out of the Imperial resources.

7061. Do you see any difficulty in giving a power to Boards of Guardians to sell the tenant's interest for the payment of arrears of rate?

The sale of the tenant's interest for outstanding rates may be quite just in theory, but there are practical difficulties in the matter which appear to me difficult to meet; amongst which, in many cases, the tenant's interest, deducting the arrears of rent, and outstanding claims against the farm (for many farms are mortgaged as a security for private debts) may be less than nothing. Again, the Board of Guardians may sell his interest, but the landlord may not approve of the purchaser as a tenant, and this is a matter of most serious importance in Ireland, for the purchaser may be a ribbonman, a pauper, or a man without capital, stock, intelligence or character. The Board of Guardians may prefer a Celt, the landlord a Saxon, or *vice versâ*; the price to be paid, or the rent to be given, cannot be taken as the test of qualification or preference; the former will

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usually outbid the latter, because the first will generally purchase without the fixed intention to fulfil his engagements; the latter, generally, with a determination to do so; and therefore the price offered will be regulated by the extent in which those motives operate. It appears to me that the proper course would be to throw the whole rate upon the occupier, as in England, and as I have already suggested; and that in the event of two rates remaining unpaid for a certain period, the landlord should be liable, but the tenant should forfeit his title on proof of the payment by the landlord. Where the sale of the tenant-right is recognised, outstanding arrears of rate are always deductions from the purchase, as the land is liable for them under the existing law; but in these cases the landlord has the approval of the tenant.

7062. With reference to the adoption of estates as areas of taxation, do you consider that it would be possible to combine detached townlands belonging to the same proprietor into one area of taxation, so as to combine property, individualize responsibility and interests, and at the same time diminish the number of areas of taxation?

I can see no possible difficulty in it: estate areas, I have already said, I consider to be of the greatest importance, and I think that it should be an insurmountable obstacle alone, which ought in each case to prevent the adoption of that principle. For the purposes of taxation, I see no difficulty in combining detached townlands belonging to the same proprietor in the same Union; I think it holds out many advantages; it might enable an estate area of taxation to be formed where the immediate juxta-position of a sufficient number of his townlands could not be secured, if their immediate contact were necessary to their being united in an area of taxation; it would also extend the area within which the proprietor could dispose of and employ his population, with a view to the prevention of destitution; and it would prevent that which may become, and has often proved, a great abuse of the law, that is to say, if a proprietor has nine-tenths of the property in one Electoral Division, or area of taxation, and only one-tenth in another, his taxation in the one would be nine-tenths, but in the other only one-tenth; in this case he might remove all his paupers from the division where he would be taxed nine-tenths for his proportion of the rate, to the one in which his liability would be only one-tenth, and he could thus be enabled to shift the burden on his neighbours; but if all his property were combined in one or more areas of taxation (if too large for one), this could not take place.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

The Honourable EDWARD TURNER BOYD TWISLETON, is called in, and further examined, as follows:

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7063. YOU stated to the Committee on your last examination, that you had been made acquainted with the resistance which had been offered at Ballina and Ballinrobe, and other places, to the different appeals against the rates?

Yes; my impression is, that I derived my knowledge from statements in the newspapers.

7064. Will you tell the Committee whether any representation has been made to you by any of the Boards of Vice-Guardians on the subject of these appeals?

I have no distinct recollection of any such representations. I have been absent lately, until within this last week, from Dublin; it is possible that such representations may have been made during my absence; and it is possible that communications on the subject may have been made previously.

7065. But you were present at the Board in Dublin, in the months of December and January last?

Yes.

7066. Is not that the time of the Quarter Sessions?

Yes.

7067. And did not the difficulty thrown in the way of the appellants at Ballina and Ballinrobe happen at those sessions?

Yes.

7068. Will

7068. Will you tell the Committee whether any particular orders or directions have been given to the Boards of Vice-Guardians in Ireland in respect to these appeals?
No.

7069. None whatever?
No.

7070. Then it is left to each Board to act according to their own discretion?
To act according to the law; in fact, it is a part of the settled policy of the Commission to meddle as little as possible with Boards of Guardians or with Vice-Guardians in reference to the collection of the rates. We consider that the Guardians have a distinct original power derived from Acts of Parliament, and that it is proper for the Commission to interfere as little as possible with that power.

7071. But are you aware that the Boards of Vice-Guardians are in the habit of referring these questions to the Commissioners?
If there is any legal point upon which we can assist them, we give them assistance.

7072. That was the policy adopted by the Poor Law Commission in England, was not it?
Yes, decidedly so. In fact the number of cases connected with the rates that come before the English Commission is very small indeed; it is a branch of the law which comes so little before the Commission, that I do not suppose I had two questions on the subject ever brought before me while I was an Assistant Commissioner in England. It is merely a continuation, so to say, of the same policy for the Commission not to interfere with Guardians in reference to the collection of rates in Ireland.

7073. Assuming that to have been strictly the case as you state it, do not you think that there was a sufficiently substantial difference between the cases of England and Ireland; in Ireland the Poor Law having been introduced now for the first time, and those called to carry on the machinery of its administration, being wholly and entirely inexperienced in the nature of the business, to justify a more active and efficient superintendence upon the part of the Commission in Ireland?
It strikes me that the system in Ireland has been established now for some time, and the law is tolerably definite upon the subject.

7074. Is there any analogy in the law of England to the duties and responsibilities of Vice-Guardians?
No.

7075. Do you conceive that there is no greater extent of responsibility thrown upon the Commission in dealing with Vice-Guardians, who are appointed by themselves and responsible to them, than there is in dealing with the elected Guardians or *ex officio* Guardians.
The Vice-Guardians are supposed to be persons acquainted with the subject, and acquainted with the laws; and if they ask our opinion upon any point, we give that opinion.

7076. Do you communicate to the Committee that you place exactly the same confidence in the administration of these powers of taxation by the Vice-Guardians who are unconnected with the district, and who have no principle of representation connected with their office, that you would in the Guardians who are elected?
Decidedly. The main point respecting which we are solicitous, is the selection of competent individuals; when they are appointed, we deal with them in the same way as with Boards of Guardians. We do our best to select fit individuals, and if they abuse their powers, they are responsible for the abuse of those powers.

7077. Is there any analogy, in respect of the control exercised by the Commissioners over the Guardians or Vice-Guardians in the law of England, that at all resembles the absolute necessity and obligation imposed by law upon the Commission

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mission to approve individually of all proceedings against immediate lessors in Ireland?

That is the only distinction between the two cases, and on a former occasion I stated to a previous Committee the policy which was then adopted by the Commissioners, of interfering as little as possible on that head also, although their consent was required. But since the Committee on the subject last Session made its Report on that point, we have interfered more than was the practice previously.

7078. Will you have the goodness to state in what respect your present practice differs from that which you described in your examination before Lord Wharncliffe's Committee?

We require a distinct statement why they do not deem it advisable to proceed by 15 days' notice or by civil bill, and we discourage proceedings in the superior courts.

7079. Had you not anterior to that, as appears from the papers before Parliament and from the evidence which you gave before Lord Wharncliffe's Committee, in the first instance directed the Guardians to report to you in every case the grounds of their proceeding in the superior courts?

I stated most fully that that was not acted upon.

7080. But now you require it?

Yes.

7081. And you exercise the control of a discretion upon that subject?

Yes.

7082. You say that you consider that point to which you have just been addressing your observations, as the only distinction between the supervision of the Poor Law Commission in Ireland and in England; are you prepared to say, adverting to the difference of circumstances between the two countries, even where there are no Vice-Guardians, that there is not a broad distinction between the machinery with which the Commissioners have to deal in England and in Ireland?

There is a great distinction between the machinery, because in the one country Overseers usually make the rates, and in the other the Guardians. But as far as this distinction goes, the course pursued in Ireland is right, *à fortiori*; for Guardians do not seem to require so much control as Overseers, inasmuch as Overseers are not so competent to deal with points of law, and are likely to understand the subject less than Guardians. It must not be supposed that we have not frequently to answer questions connected with the making of rates; that is a distinct point; but that which we have all along repudiated, and which we do repudiate, is an attempt to make the Commissioners responsible for everything that may be incorrect or improper in the making of rates, or in any proceeding against defaulters.

7083. Then do you consider that the Poor Law Commission have no responsibility imposed upon them at all, with respect to the checking and to the preventing of abuses in the imposition of rates?

Undoubtedly we have, to a certain extent. Supposing an abuse was brought fairly before us, we should give our opinion upon it; there is not the least doubt about that; but what I object to, is the endeavouring to make the Commissioners responsible for every abuse which takes place in making of rates, and in the bringing of actions by Guardians against defaulters. I think that you should take each particular case, and then consider whether it was very fully brought before the Commissioners, and what their opinion upon that case was.

7084. Supposing that, in a case of vexation, a complaint were made to the Commissioners; would the answer of the Commissioners be at once, "We have no responsibility in this matter, and we must leave it entirely to the Board of Guardians." Do you not think it would rather be the duty of the Commissioners to exercise such a supervision and control as should tend to check and prevent such an abuse of power?

My answer would depend upon the precise nature of the case; all general statements of this kind are liable to different interpretations; I might act upon my own statement and my view of the case, in precisely the manner that your Lordship might deem it right to act under the same circumstances.

7085. Then

7085. Then when you stated, as you did in the first instance, that you thought that it was the settled policy of the Commission in Ireland to leave all such questions to the decision of the Boards of Guardians, you mean that that opinion must be subject to modification?
I stated that the policy was to interfere as little as possible.

7086. Can you give us any idea at all of the construction which you would put upon those qualifying words, "as little as possible"?
It would require me, in order to give an explanation of that, to have special cases before me. Suppose a case of rating; that there was the case of an individual who appealed to the Commissioners, and stated that he was improperly rated; I should say that that was not a question for the Commissioners, but a question which should be settled upon appeal; that would be an instance of our meddling as little as possible; we should not go into the question whether he was or was not properly or improperly rated.

7087. Supposing that individual to have not only complained that he was improperly rated, but to have represented to you that he had taken all the steps which were in his power to prosecute his appeal against that tax, and that he had found himself thwarted by the Boards of Guardians, and that he had not been fairly dealt with, preferring complaints against those Boards of Guardians, would you then feel it your duty to interfere?
Yes, in that case we should make an inquiry.

7088. Are the Committee to understand that you consider that the Vice-Guardians being once appointed, no greater responsibility rests with the Commissioners in respect of the conduct of those gentlemen, than with respect to the elected Boards of Guardians, who are answerable to a constituency?
The Commissioners are so far responsible, that if these individuals are incompetent they ought to be removed, or if they act corruptly they ought to be removed; but if they, being competent persons and such as ought to be appointed, exercise a reasonable discretion upon the subjects brought before them, and where they fall into an error of judgment, it appears to me that the Commissioners are not responsible for their conduct, any more than for the conduct of the Board of Guardians.

7089. Do you not conceive that the Commissioners are bound, as far as they can, to see to a uniform administration of the law, by officers appointed by themselves?
Yes, within certain limits.

7090. Are the Committee to understand that although, through newspapers or other means, you became acquainted with the frivolous opposition offered at Ballina and Ballinrobe to the appellants, you did not consider it your duty to make any representation to those Boards of Guardians on that subject?
I have no distinct recollection of the cases to which your Lordship refers.

7091. You cannot bring to your recollection, that any representation or remonstrance of the sort has been made by the Commissioners to any Board of Vice-Guardians?
I cannot say that; I have no doubt that there are some instances where we have considered that Vice-Guardians did not act correctly, and we have made a representation to them accordingly.

7092. Have you given any general direction, that in the prosecution or the defence of legal proceedings there should, as far as possible, be a disposition to join issue upon the merits of the case, and not to have recourse, in either cases of prosecution or defence, to mere technicalities?
We have given no such general direction as that. I should not have the slightest objection to issue a direction of the kind, if it were possible to draw a line on the subject.

7093. Do you think that that would be a reasonable course for a public body, like a Board of Guardians, to act upon?
Yes.

7094. You stated on a former day, that these were legal difficulties which offered themselves on all legal questions?

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My impression is, that in all legal proceedings in this country, individuals are liable to lose their cause, if they do not observe all the technicalities of law.

7095. Can you tell the Committee whether there is any case at all similar, or analogous to this, that a body shall be vested with the power of unlimited and arbitrary taxation; that the book of the party shall be *primâ facie* evidence of the truth of that rating, and that then by some trifling informality in the notice, the rate-payer shall be refused defence on the merits?

I am not aware of a parallel case to that; but I must object to the expression of what is called "unlimited and arbitrary taxation;" the taxation appears to me not to be unlimited, and not to be arbitrary.

7096. In what respects?

The amount of taxation is according to the expenses of each Electoral Division.

7097. Who makes the estimate of those expenses?

The Vice-Guardians make the estimate.

7098. And does it not rest entirely upon their conduct in making the estimate what may be the future amount of rating?

It is on their reasonable discretion, in a legal sense; it is on a reasonable exercise of their judgment, arising from the past expenses and the future prospects of the Union; it is not an unlimited amount which they may raise.

7099. Is not the taxing power which they possess the same unlimited power that in the case of any despotism, including that of Mehemet Ali, would be exercised?

Decidedly not.

7100. Will you have the goodness to state in what respects it is different?

Because the Guardians are bound, by the Act of Parliament under which they act, to make rates in proportion to the requirements of each Electoral Division, and they may be removed from their office, if they abuse their power. With regard to Mehemet Ali, I am not aware that in imposing taxes in Egypt, he is bound by any law analogous to an Act of Parliament, or that he can be removed from his office for imposing excessive taxes on his subjects.

7101. But supposing the parties imposing the tax have, at the same time, an unlimited and unrestrained power of calculating, at their discretion, what the subject of the taxation is to be, and the sum to be collected, does not that practically amount to a discretionary power in their hands?

It is a power which they exercise, subject to responsibility.

7102. The power in this respect is the same in the Vice-Guardians and in the elected Guardians?

Yes; except that elected Guardians are not, in the same sense, a responsible body.

7103. Do you recollect the case of the Union of Newcastle, in the county of Limerick; was not there a case there in which the elected Guardians applied the funds, without any sealed order, for the relief of the out-door poor?

There was a case of that kind.

7104. That was continued for some time?

For a certain time.

7105. And a considerable amount expended?

Yes.

7106. Will you have the goodness to state whether there has been any proceeding taken by the Poor Law Commission, for the purpose of the recovery of the sum so misapplied?

I believe that the Auditor has not been able to settle precisely the individuals to whom he shall charge the relief illegally given; that case is not closed.

7107. How long back did that case take place?

In November of the year before last.

7108. In November 1847?

Yes.

7109. There

7109. There is no question that that was an illegal appropriation of public money?
Yes.

7110. And during that interval of time, there has been no remedy obtained for the rate-payers of that Union?
No, it was a very heavy case; the amount illegally given was of very great extent. There are great difficulties involved in enabling the Auditor to settle to whom he is to charge each sum illegally expended on that occasion.

7111. In that case, then, there was an illegal appropriation exercised by an unrestrained, though a legitimate, discretion?
That was the case of a Board of Guardians.

7112. Have you not stated that the Vice-Guardians would have the same power?
The Vice-Guardians would be responsible for the abuse of a power of that sort.

7113. They would be responsible to whom?
To the Commissioners, undoubtedly. That is what I have stated all along.

7114. Have you had occasion to remove any Vice-Guardians for misappropriations of public money?
Yes.

7115. Have there been any instances in which relief has been given by the Vice-Guardians contrary to your instructions by sealed order, or without the existence of your sealed order, contrary to the antecedent Act of Parliament?
Yes; and in one case we removed two Vice-Guardians for having given such relief without a sealed order.

7116. In any of these cases to which you have referred, has there been any remedy procured through the medium of the Auditors?
I believe in one of the cases the individuals will have to refund the money.

7117. Has any money been returned?
I cannot say that the money has been actually lodged with the Treasurer.

7118. Therefore, as far as the provisions of the Act at present stand, there has been no practical consequence of the audit of the account?
As far as I know, the money has not been actually refunded in one case.

7119. Is there any security for its being refunded?
No.

7120. Within your knowledge, have monies of that description ever been refunded?
I do not remember a case.

7121. You have stated that the Boards of Guardians have not a power of unlimited and arbitrary taxation?
Yes.

7122. Have they not a power of charging any person for any amount of property, whether it belongs to him or not?
In the first instance; but it would be a breach of trust if a Board of Guardians were to make a palpably unjust rate on any one.

7123. Have they not a power of charging any person for any amount of property, whether it belongs to him or not?
In the first instance they have; but there is a power of appeal.

7124. If the party were denied that appeal from some technical objection to the notice, he would, in that case, be unjustly charged for property that did not belong to him?
If he were unjustly charged, I have already stated that I should disapprove most strongly of his being defeated in appeal upon technical grounds.

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7125. If cases of abuse were represented to the Commissioners, you are of opinion that it would be their duty to direct that for the future these technical objections should be waived?

I should feel a difficulty in stating altogether that no technical objection was to have its weight. I cannot say, without further consideration, whether a line could be drawn on this subject. All that I can say is, that if I had individually to deal with such a case, I would not think for a moment of insisting upon a technical objection.

7126. If it were represented to you that the Assistant Barrister, before whom such appeals had been heard, had stated in open Court that the conduct of the Guardians had been vexatious and frivolous, should you consider, in such a case, that it would be your duty to censure that Board of Guardians?

That would depend very much upon who the Assistant Barrister was. I am not at all prepared to say, that in the present state of the country every Assistant Barrister was necessarily in the right, who might make a statement to the effect that the conduct of a Board of Guardians or of Vice-Guardians, in reference to an appeal against poor-rates, was frivolous and vexatious.

7127. But in such a case you would require to have the case represented to you, and you would inquire into the merits?

Yes. The way to have an inquiry into any case of that kind, would be to make a representation to the Commissioners respecting it; and we should refer that letter to the Vice-Guardians for an explanation, and then give our opinion upon it.

7128. Then you object to issuing any such general order as the one proposed?

Without further consideration, I do. I have no doubt whatever as to its being desirable that the law should be such that no one who is improperly rated should be compelled to pay rates on account of legal technicalities; and in like manner, that no Board of Guardians, or other party who might bring an action of debt, should be debarred from his or their rights on account of such technicalities; I have no doubt of that.

7129. Are you not aware that to sue a person for debt you must prove the debt?

Yes.

7130. In the case of rating, the book is received as *primâ facie* evidence, without any other proof, is it not?

Yes, in the case of occupiers; so far there would be a distinction. As I said before, I should not have the least objection to an alteration of the law on the subject in reference to rating; but I certainly think that the injustice arising from technicalities in law is not confined merely to poor-rates, but is far more extensive in this country.

7131. When the party upon one side is a public body, making a demand for public purposes, do not you think that the taking advantage of technicalities is rather more objectionable than when the question is between private parties?

It is.

7132. Will you have the goodness to state the constitution of the Poor Law Commission under the Extension Act; of whom does it consist?

Of the Chief Secretary for Ireland, the Under Secretary for Ireland, and an individual called the Chief Commissioner of Poor Laws.

7133. Is there not an Assistant Commissioner?

There is likewise an Assistant Commissioner, to whom all the powers of the Chief Commissioner may be delegated during his absence from Dublin; and there is likewise a Secretary.

7134. During the residence of the Chief Commissioner, what are the functions assigned to the Assistant Commissioner?

He assists in performing the whole business of the office.

7135. To what extent is there assistance given by the two official members being charged with other duties, the Chief Secretary and the Under Secretary?

Every day in the week, speaking generally, a Board is held at Dublin Castle, and

and at that Board all subjects which are either in themselves of any very special importance, or which are important, as involving a great general principle, are brought under consideration. For example, a Board of Guardians would not be dissolved, or an answer would not be given on a question likely to occasion religious animosities, without a previous consideration of the subject by the Board of Commissioners. Generally speaking, I should say that I have been in the habit of reserving for the Board all Poor Law cases respecting which the Chief Secretary for Ireland was likely to be questioned in the House of Commons.

7136. During time of great pressure upon the public business of the country, is it possible that those Boards can be held every day; take the late events in Ireland, during the late troubles and anxieties on the part of the Government as to the peace of the country?

There were very few days even then on which a Board was not held. The Committee should know that a meeting of the Board very seldom lasts more than half-an-hour or three quarters of an hour.

7137. The object being to bring the reserved cases under consideration?

Yes.

7138. How is the business transacted during the absence of the Chief Secretary in attending his duty in Parliament?

It is transacted in precisely the same manner; the Board then merely consists of two members.

7139. Are there communications from time to time made to the Chief Secretary of the more important decisions to which the Board shall come in order to obtain, where the circumstances admit of it, his previous opinion, and where it it is required to communicate to him the result with a view to Parliamentary responsibility?

He always receives a copy of the minutes. If there was any case of great importance on which it was deemed advisable to have his opinion, a communication would be made to him; but I am not able to say that such questions have often arisen. In the generality of cases, the Under Secretary would be supposed to be acquainted with the general views of the Chief Secretary, and would probably give his opinion on his own responsibility.

7140. Do you recollect a case which excited considerable discussion and attention both in Parliament and elsewhere, where, under an opinion which was given to the Board by Mr. Henn, relief was authorized to be afforded to the members of a family, the head of that family being disqualified from receiving relief by still retaining possession of more than a quarter of acre of land? Was that case brought under the consideration of your colleagues, the official members of the Board?

Decidedly, to the best of my belief; the Chief Secretary at that time was in London, undoubtedly; it was brought under the consideration of the Under Secretary for Ireland.

7141. Was that a decision of yours, or was it a decision in your absence of the Assistant Poor Law Commissioner, who was charged, during your absence, as you have described, with the execution of your functions?

It was issued when I was in Ireland, and I consider myself wholly responsible for it.

7142. Take such cases as the application which came to you from Newcastle, in the county of Limerick, in relation to the alteration of the Electoral Divisions of the Devon property; were those cases in which, the principle being involved, you would communicate with the official members, and make them cognizant of the fact?

Decidedly. The letter in answer to the application of the trustees of the Earl of Devon was very fully considered by all the members of the Commission.

7143. Were not there some analogous cases likewise which were determined upon the same principle as that?

Yes.

7144. And those likewise were brought under the consideration of the Commissioners?

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I would not say every particular case. After the principle had once been decided that we would not alter the Electoral Divisions on the principle of estate rating, if any proposition, which merely involved the same general principle, was made for the alteration of any Electoral Division, I should have respectfully declined to entertain such a proposition, and should have sent to the party who made a copy of the answer to the trustees of the Earl of Devon.

7145. Was that application the first that was made upon that subject?

My impression is that it was the first after the constitution of the new Commission. At any rate, it was so very much the most important of all the applications, that it was held to determine the principle.

7146. The most important on account of the extent of the property?

Yes; on account of the extent of the property, and the great change which it would have made in the Electoral Divisions of the Newcastle Union.

7147. Supposing that we were discussing the formation of a non-existing Board for the purpose of administering the Poor Law in Ireland, do you conceive that the constitution of the Board, formed as it is, is the most convenient and effectual that could be devised for that purpose, or do you think that it would be susceptible of any change with a view to its improvement?

It appears to me that it has worked remarkably well since 1847; at the same time I must say, that the effect would depend almost entirely upon the individuals who were the Chief Secretary and the Under Secretary. Practically speaking, as the Chief Secretary has been so much absent from Dublin, the *ex officio* member of the Board who has attended it most frequently has been the Under Secretary, and I cannot doubt for a moment that I have derived the greatest advantage from acting with Mr. Redington, and from having the benefit of his thorough knowledge of Ireland, his tried ability, and his remarkable singleness of purpose.

7148. Those are two removable offices, are they not?

Yes. I would wish, however, to add, that if in process of time, when parties were very equally balanced, an Under Secretary or Chief Secretary for Ireland were appointed, by whom it was deemed to be a great object to make use of their patronage for purposes of Parliamentary influence, the present arrangement would be most mischievous to the Commission. It has succeeded from the honesty with which the appointments have been made; but if ever there were a Secretary or Under Secretary who interfered with the appointments, other than on the principle of selecting the best candidate, the Commission would be deeply injured.

7149. Do you not think that the success which you have described is also attributable to the long experience and knowledge which the two present officers have of the peculiar circumstances of Ireland itself?

Yes.

7150. Those two offices being political in their nature, and subject to changes of the political party at periods of changes of Government, should you feel confidence in the permanent well working of that system, subject, as it would then be, to vicissitudes and the possible appointment of persons unconnected with Ireland, and inexperienced in its local circumstances?

It would depend entirely upon the individuals selected for those offices. If an individual were selected as Under Secretary for Ireland who had not some knowledge of the Poor Laws (for it is to be observed that Mr. Redington was Chairman of the Board of Guardians of Galway Union), or if one were selected who was not sound in his views of Poor Laws, the system would not work well.

7151. You are aware that under the existing English Poor Law certain official persons are connected with the Commissioner at Somerset House in the administration of the Poor Law of this country; are you aware whether any such active communication and constant co-operation as that which you have described beneficially to exist in Ireland exists in this country?

I am aware that it does not.

7152. That

7152. That neither the Chancellor of the Exchequer, nor the Lord President, nor any other great officers of State, are united in the Somerset House administration?

In practice they are not so united.

7153. Taking into calculation the difficulty of uniting the qualifications which you have described, great knowledge of the working of the Poor Law, and local knowledge so as to apply the principles upon which the Poor Law exists, and upon which its safety and its efficiency depend, do you think that the public can feel any very great confidence in the permanence of a system which depends upon those peculiar qualifications, being superadded to the political qualifications which are required primarily for those high offices in the State?

The public may possibly not feel any such confidence; but at the same time everything will depend upon the care which hereafter may be taken in the selection of those officers, bearing in mind, as an element in the selection, individuals who possess a knowledge of Poor Law principle.

7154. A fortunate and inviting despotism has been called a happy accident; throwing the administration of the Poor Laws into the hands of two great political officers charged with enormous responsibilities and duties, do you not consider that the qualifications which you have, I am sure, so justly described in the present instance, are more to be regarded in the nature of a happy accident than of a contingency that can be permanently relied upon?

Perhaps so; but they were possessed by the only other Under Secretary for Ireland who held office during my official connexion with the country. Moreover, it is my impression that if a Chief Secretary and Under Secretary were appointed who had not much knowledge upon the subject of the Poor Laws, they would naturally defer to the opinion of the Chief Commissioner, and, at any rate, under such circumstances they would not interfere to any very great extent with the details of the law.

7155. You are not prepared to suggest any better mode of operation?

No, I am not; particularly if it were always understood that the Chief Secretary and Under Secretary should interfere as little as possible with the appointments; say, that they should interfere only negatively; it would seem to me a very good arrangement that the Chief Commissioner should submit every appointment to the Chief Secretary and Under Secretary for their approval, so that they might have a negative upon the appointment; but that the Chief Commissioner should be made solely responsible for the appointment, and that he should be told, "It is your duty to disregard private influence and parliamentary influence, and every other consideration whatever, except the paramount obligation of appointing the very best man among all the candidates; you must act as a scrupulously conscientious trustee."

7156. Do you think that the Irish Poor Law could be effectively administered from Somerset House alone?

No.

7157. With one of the Board residing in Ireland as was the case in the first instance?

In such a case everything would depend upon how far the individual residing in Dublin had independent power; if the individual residing in Dublin acted for himself, and very rarely communicated with London, it might be managed effectively. To explain my meaning: before I was Chief Commissioner, I was myself Fourth Commissioner in Dublin; I had very rarely communications with the Board in London, but I communicated with them on any matter of principle or any point on which the Government were likely to be assailed in the House of Commons; still I had the absolute power in the last resort of deciding every case upon my own responsibility.

7158. From your experience of both modes of administering the Irish Poor Law, which do you consider on the whole the best?

I do not doubt that the latter mode has been the best during the last year-and-a-half. I have already explained the great advantage which I consider myself to have derived from the assistance of the Under Secretary, Mr. Redington.

The Hon. E. T. B. Twisleton.

24th April 1849.

7159. Limited, as your answer is, to the last year-and-a-half, do you include amongst the motives which led you to that opinion, and which have suggested that limitation, the peculiar difficulties which have arisen in Ireland during that period of great and urgent distress, and the peculiar qualifications which you have stated to exist in the two officers filling the present situations of Chief Secretary and Under Secretary?

I do.

7160. Supposing that instead of the present constitution of the Commission, the Under Secretary were retained, and that in the room of the Chief Secretary, whose duties necessarily require an absence of about half the year from Ireland, some other resident officer were placed upon the Commission, do you think that that would be a better or worse constitution of the Commission than at present?

I think it would be a worse constitution. I would, by no means, have two Chief Commissioners, so to say, in Dublin; I think that the only having one Chief Commissioner is preferable. As matters stand at present, every paper in the office ultimately is signed by the Chief Commissioner; and I think, to a certain extent, this gives a unity to the Commission, which would be impaired by having two such officers. The present system seems to me to work very well, as far as I am able to form an opinion.

7161. But for the greater part of the year the Chief Secretary is a totally inefficient member of the Commission?

He is not always able to take a part in the business of the Commission; the greater part of the business falls upon the Under Secretary for Ireland.

7162. Do you not consider it of very great importance, that in the administration of the Poor Law in Ireland we should, as far as possible, carry with us, not as an undeviating rule, but for the benefit of guidance, the benefits of English analogy and English experience, where the Poor Law has been so long known?

Certainly.

7163. Do you not think that in relation to the general contentment of the people of Ireland with the administration of the law, this English analogy and English authority for what is done there, is an important element with respect to the Poor Law itself?

Up to a certain extent it is.

7164. Do you not think that the benefit of that English experience and English analogy is placed somewhat more at hazard by having a separate establishment in Ireland, than it would be if it were put in connexion with Somerset House, even though that connexion were resolved into the principle which you have already described; namely, an independent action in Ireland, and a power of reference to Somerset House, upon occasion, for the determination of matters of principle and of grave importance?

That might, on the one hand, give a greater security, that the analogy of English principle and practice would be followed; but, on the other hand, occasionally it might lead to inconvenience. There is no doubt the law is administered more stringently in Ireland than it is in England, and I can conceive cases in which it would be rather embarrassing for the English Commission to give answers to Irish Boards, such as we at present should not hesitate to give.

7165. The question did not refer to answers given direct from Somerset House to Irish Boards, but to answers given by the Irish Commissioner after consultation, if he thought fit, with his colleagues, or with officers exercising analogous duties in England?

Still, in the long run, if particular answers were given by the Irish Board, which were more stringent than the answers given by the English Board, if there was that sort of connexion between the two Boards, some embarrassment might arise to the English Board in its communication with English Boards of Guardians.

7166. Was any such embarrassment felt at any time previously to the Extension Act, which for the first time established the independent action of the Irish Board?

No, for this reason: that the old Irish Poor Law was very definitely regulated by

by the Act of Parliament; it was a peculiar law which allowed relief to the destitute in Workhouses only, and it did not afford that wide field for discussion which is now open by permitting out-door relief.

7167. Are there not very considerable differences between the Poor Laws of the two countries, in that very sense, existing at the present moment?

Yes, there are; but at the same time there are many points of resemblance.

7168. The course of examination has not assumed orders or directions given from Somerset House, but a power of communication and consultation between Somerset House and the Poor Law Administration in Ireland, and especially bears in view the possibility of having not official officers qualified by experience and by knowledge, as at present, but having officers of a different description, charged with the functions of the Chief Secretary and Under Secretary?

Some advantages might arise from a connexion with the English Board under such circumstances, but I am scarcely prepared to say that, on the whole, the advantages would be greater than the possible disadvantages.

7169. Have you found, practically, that during the absence of the Chief Secretary, from the accumulation of business which has fallen on the Under Secretary, you could not have his co-operation so much as you might have desired?

No; except during the period of the disturbances in Tipperary, we were always enabled to hold a Board just for half-an-hour in the day.

7170. Then, in fact, your answer is given with the belief that the existing Under Secretary is a man of great quickness and great ability?

Yes.

7171. Upon the whole, from your experience of the two systems, in the administration of the Poor Law in Ireland, is there any improvement which you could suggest upon the present constitution of the Board?

There is not; but I have not given very much consideration to the subject lately.

7172. And you are understood to say, that even in ordinary times, as far as you yet perceive, you approve of the present constitution of the Board, as compared with the late constitution?

No, I am not quite prepared to say that; if affairs were going on very smoothly, I conceive that the Chief Commissioner might perform the business perhaps to more advantage as it was under the old system; but there, again, everything would depend upon the individual who was appointed Under Secretary for Ireland.

7173. Has the Board at any time issued orders to any Unions with regard to the holding of religious holidays in the Union-houses?

Yes; we have issued a general order for the observation of what are called the Roman Catholic holidays of obligation.

7174. That is before Parliament?

Yes.

7175. Was it confined merely to the one sect, or did it extend to all religious sects?

It, of necessity, extended only to the Roman Catholics. Perhaps your Lordships may not be aware that in the Roman Catholic Church there are what are called nine holidays of obligation, which it is a part of the duty of every Roman Catholic to observe in precisely the same manner as Sunday. There is no distinction on this head whatever, and just as a Roman Catholic is bound to abstain from work on Sunday, so he is bound by the Roman Catholic Church to abstain from work on the Roman Catholic holidays of obligation in Ireland.

7176. How did the Board ascertain those facts, so as to act upon them?

It is a matter of general notoriety, which would be stated to you by any respectable Roman Catholic; I have seen it stated in one letter at least by a Roman Catholic Bishop; the list of the holidays is published, I believe, in the Roman Catholic official directory of Ireland.

The Hon. E. T. B. Twisleton.

24th April 1849.

7177. Then it was from that, and not from any communication with any of the Roman Catholic Bishops, that the order was given?

What led to the order was this; I had certainly been under the impression that those holidays were universally observed in the Workhouses in Ireland, although no special order had been issued upon the subject; but in one particular Union a complaint was made by the Roman Catholic chaplain of the Workhouse that the holidays were not observed, and that violence was done to the consciences of the Roman Catholic inmates by their being required to work on those holidays; that led to a correspondence, a very civil correspondence, in the first instance with the Board of Guardians, suggesting to them the propriety of their not compelling Roman Catholics to work on those days. However, this Board of Guardians declined to act on our suggestion, and we were very reluctantly compelled to issue a special order to that Board of Guardians, requiring them to observe those Roman Catholic holidays.

7178. What steps were taken in consequence?

Afterwards the subject was raised in Parliament, and in consequence of a Return which was moved for by the House of Commons, we had occasion to send a circular to all the Boards of Guardians in Ireland, requesting them to inform us whether they were in the habit of permitting the Roman Catholic inmates to observe the Roman Catholic holidays. In an overwhelming majority of the Unions, the answer of the Boards of Guardians was, they were in the habit of observing those holidays; there were a few Boards of Guardians in the north which did not observe them. Afterwards, in our revised Workhouse Regulations we bore that point in mind, and introduced one regulation by which no Roman Catholic inmate of a Workhouse should be required to work on any of the Roman Catholic holidays of obligation.

7179. Did any Board of Guardians in any part of Ireland, in consequence of that, appoint similar holidays for the persons professing the Protestant religion?

No; this Board of Guardians, with whom we had the original correspondence, had written to us on the subject, complaining of the observance of those holidays by the Roman Catholics, stating, in effect, their apprehension that it might lead to apostacy on the part of the Protestant inmates. In our answer, to meet their views, without admitting that such a result was likely, we stated to them that if they apprehended that result, they were at liberty to exempt the Protestant inmates from work on those days. Subsequently they took advantage of that letter to propose, that on certain days,—not all religious festivals, but on certain days, among others on the 12th July,—the Protestant inmates might have holidays; and as the correspondence stood when I left Dublin, we had written to suggest to the Board of Guardians that there was no real analogy between the observance of these Protestant holidays and the observance of the Roman Catholic holidays of obligation, inasmuch as it was not the religious duty of any member of the Protestant Church to refrain from working on the proposed Protestant holidays, whereas it was the religious duty of a Roman Catholic to abstain from work on the Roman Catholic holidays of obligation.

7180. Did any Board of Guardians, in consequence of those nine days that were ordered by the Board, give a direction that the Protestant inmates should have those nine days also; that is, that there should be no holiday for one class that was not open to the other?

I am not aware of such an order by any Board of Guardians.

7181. But you gave them liberty to do so?

In this particular case, it was rather an answer to the objection to the order. They expressed their apprehension that this might lead to the apostacy of the inmates; and we said, that if that was the case, they were at liberty to exempt the Protestant inmates from work on those days.

7182. If the Guardians required that if one class had holidays, the other should have them, there was no objection on the part of the Board?

On the same days?

7183. On the same days?

No; there would be no objection on the part of the Board.

7184. We

The Hon. E. T. B. Twisleton.

24th April 1849.

7184. We have before us, in the papers which are on the table, a statistical account of the distressed Unions brought up to a given time. Is it in your power to furnish us with similar Returns up to a later, and what, period, not expecting to be regularly audited?

I have here a statement for each Union of the collection and expenses of each month during the half-year ended 31st March 1849, and the total for the half-year, showing the excess of the collection over the expenses, or the expenses over the collection; also, the total expenses and collection during the corresponding half-year ended 31st March 1848.

7185. Does that Return give to the Committee the amount of the debt?

No.

7186. Can you furnish us with such a Return?

No; I can furnish the Committee with a separate document, which will show the net debts of almost every Union in Ireland. There are some for which I have not received the information.

7187. Up to what period?

Up to the 31st March 1849; but your Lordships must take any statement of this sort subject to correction; for the accounts have not been audited.

7188. Will you deliver in those documents?

The Witness delivers in the same, which are as follow:

STATEMENT,

STATEMENT, for each UNION, of the COLLECTION and EXPENSES of each MONTH during the Half-Year ended 31st March 1849, and TOTAL for the Half-Year; showing the EXCESS of the COLLECTION over the EXPENSES, or of the EXPENSES over the COLLECTION: Also, the TOTAL EXPENSES and COLLECTION during the corresponding Half-Year ended 31st March 1848.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	COLLECTION.							EXPENSES.							Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Total Expenses for Half-Year ended 31 March 1848.	Collection during the Half-Year ended 31 March 1848.
	October 1848.	November 1848.	December 1848.	January 1849.	February 1849.	March 1849.	TOTAL Six Months.	October 1848.	November 1848.	December 1848.	January 1849.	February 1849.	March 1849.	TOTAL Six Months.				
PROVINCE OF ULSTER:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
COUNTY OF ANTRIM - Antrim	1,120	2,263	1,329	468	674	150	6,004	396	434	455	359	442	532	2,618	3,386	- -	3,419	6,300
Ballycastle	43	43	92	637	684	418	1,917	187	175	150	208	181	326	1,227	690	- -	1,850	987
Ballymena	46	33	86	690	1,702	1,396	3,953	650	436	364	661	489	480	3,080	873	- -	3,410	4,360
Ballymoney	264	163	259	626	1,430	984	3,726	276	268	307	472	366	335	2,024	1,702	- -	2,531	4 249
Belfast	2,172	2,147	1,653	1,973	1,462	2,200	11,607	2,072	1,846	2,656	3,272	2,022	1,651	13,519	- -	1,912	13,637	11,844
Larne	1,016	669	403	471	97	95	2,751	226	230	245	243	241	307	1,492	1,259	- -	1,647	2,582
Lisburn	1,290	528	276	166	453	994	3,707	305	310	940	379	310	346	2,590	1,117	- -	3,114	4,037
ARMAGH - Armagh	2,528	1,139	656	567	390	446	5,726	494	628	679	861	740	514	3,916	1,810	- -	5,278	8,589
Lurgan	179	- -	- -	466	1,360	1,682	3,687	442	456	404	629	616	568	3,115	572	- -	7,190	9,340
CAVAN - Bailieborough	1,901	1,928	914	770	901	844	7,258	483	770	718	1,002	849	945	4,767	2,491	- -	5,178	7,987
Cavan	5,754	3,005	1,295	277	- -	85	10,416	1,118	1,469	1,975	2,299	1,939	2,152	10,952	- -	536	10,556	16,113
Cootehill	788	3,963	4,059	1,684	384	1,055	11,933	780	1,116	1,774	1,696	1,203	1,274	7,843	4,090	- -	4,887	5,513
DONEGAL - Ballyshannon	529	1,177	1,332	2,250	783	152	6,223	421	298	311	343	266	346	1,985	4,238	- -	2,572	6,348
Donegal	241	71	39	921	1,327	1,104	3,703	184	298	453	439	1,120	473	2,967	736	- -	1,196	2,552
Dunfanaghy	139	108	290	91	191	162	981	74	90	110	81	134	138	627	354	- -	687	274
Glenties	- -	446	843	184	203	519	2,195	258	206	260	364	385	424	1,897	298	- -	3,161	2,412
Inishowen	551	460	346	123	137	199	1,816	130	139	296	300	286	254	1,405	411	- -	1,107	1,570
Letterkenny	74	109	307	326	375	250	1,441	129	139	224	243	188	197	1,120	321	- -	2,088	1,710
Milford	- -	233	937	948	605	351	3,074	84	106	217	114	148	107	776	2,298	- -	1,572	2,555
Stranorlar	183	176	50	33	30	31	503	112	151	172	186	202	167	990	- -	487	841	2,024
DOWN - Banbridge	894	428	760	1,247	1,393	1,209	5,931	399	386	488	529	491	539	2,832	3,099	- -	6,548	6,063
Downpatrick	25	47	189	646	897	676	2,480	314	596	528	431	410	809	3,088	- -	608	4,985	4,031
Kilkeel	169	- -	285	210	245	236	1,145	114	125	228	138	159	171	935	210	- -	962	1,305
Newry	1,844	2,064	1,206	1,123	1,007	854	8,098	685	708	978	883	793	1,033	5,080	3,018	- -	4,306	4,072
Newtownards	1,200	227	195	48	- -	395	2,065	330	486	816	437	777	500	3,346	- -	1,281	2,966	3,295
FERMANAGH - Enniskillen	829	4,316	3,759	1,816	1,289	873	12,882	609	763	1,084	1,026	777	1,092	5,351	7,531	- -	4,246	8,084
Lisnaskea	366	117	132	22	99	- -	736	210	248	276	419	349	360	1,862	- -	1,126	1,885	4,679
Lowtherstown	549	1,365	1,106	1,322	894	619	5,855	145	165	234	264	262	284	1,354	4,501	- -	3,920	4,945
LONDONDERRY - Coleraine	114	80	499	761	739	850	3,043	249	264	313	370	292	361	1,849	1,194	- -	2,884	2,909
Londonderry	613	1,585	939	804	646	480	5,067	365	447	601	578	590	819	3,400	1,667	- -	4,252	4,353
Magherafelt	299	598	1,251	1,607	1,019	794	5,568	260	329	380	356	410	438	2,173	3,395	- -	3,283	5,148
Newtownlimavady	491	310	116	- -	- -	- -	917	220	265	242	268	264	438	1,697	- -	780	1,977	2,640
MONAGHAN - Carrickmacross	1,054	551	301	67	927	1,192	4,092	524	537	762	704	619	860	4,006	86	- -	3,094	4,705
Castleblaney	2,312	1,008	760	421	1,700	1,758	7,959	549	501	482	1,177	752	653	4,114	3,845	- -	5,159	7,009
Clones	152	266	1,825	1,736	1,184	857	6,020	464	580	439	584	745	710	3,522	2,498	- -	2,834	3,116
Monaghan	- -	302	1,934	3,486	1,677	546	7,945	354	1,252	443	718	1,117	431	4,315	3,630	- -	2,901	8,567
TYRONE - Castlederg	533	443	389	352	314	366	2,397	88	106	126	128	112	111	671	1,726	- -	907	1,306
Clogher	1,008	573	462	8	312	437	2,800	421	741	401	632	403	605	3,203	- -	403	2,444	3,834
Cookstown	330	391	525	332	276	132	1,986	267	249	246	319	359	381	1,821	165	- -	1,749	2,041
Dungannon	10	518	1,144	1,394	1,403	1,013	5,482	295	398	364	313	313	592	2,275	3,207	- -	3,132	4,266
Gortin	201	352	256	300	50	21	1,180	74	90	131	140	94	128	657	523	- -	661	1,000
Omagh	89	31	196	1,084	1,463	909	3,772	297	384	369	468	506	572	2,596	1,176	- -	3,892	5,259
Strabane	25	164	788	1,768	1,387	905	5,037	268	357	321	415	598	361	2,320	2,717	- -	3,397	7,831
TOTAL ULSTER £.	31,925	34,397	34,183	34,225	32,109	28,239	195,078	16,322	19,542	22,962	25,448	23,319	23,784	131,377	70,834	7,133	148,305	201,804

STATEMENT, for each Union, of the COLLECTION and EXPENSES of each Month, for the Half-Year ended 31 March 1849, and TOTAL for the Half-Year—*continued*.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	COLLECTION.							EXPENSES.							Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Total Expenses for Half-Year ended 31 March 1848.	Collection during the Half-Year ended 31 March 1848.
	October 1848.	November 1848.	December 1848.	January 1849.	February 1849.	March 1849.	Total Six Months.	October 1848.	November 1848.	December 1848.	January 1849.	February 1849.	March 1849.	Total Six Months.				
PROVINCE OF MUNSTER:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
County of CLARE - - Ennis	1,509	4,732	3,148	3,101	1,176	480	14,146	2,998	2,953	3,556	3,941	3,963	4,352	21,763	- -	7,617	12,885	13,261
Ennistymon	3,905	3,709	2,119	1,006	329	2,357	13,425	2,746	2,852	2,763	2,886	3,179	3,392	17,818	- -	4,393	8,790	6,657
Kilrush	1,286	3,828	2,024	705	400	277	8,520	1,550	2,326	3,149	2,926	3,053	3,279	16,283	- -	7,763	7,424	7,692
Scariff	253	3,667	1,694	1,135	334	225	7,308	1,935	2,605	2,853	2,912	2,800	2,997	16,102	- -	8,794	9,291	10,859
CORK - - Bandon	259	1,567	1,338	1,271	868	1,005	6,308	625	1,267	1,407	1,429	1,184	1,056	6,968	- -	660	4,271	6,997
Bantry	1,608	1,141	804	548	465	185	4,751	908	1,299	2,013	1,774	1,181	1,475	8,650	- -	3,899	6,031	4,314
Cork	3,402	4,298	3,481	2,341	1,608	449	15,579	1,730	3,009	2,304	3,018	3,341	4,065	17,467	- -	1,888	11,679	22,157
Dunmanway	55	1,551	2,259	1,005	374	453	5,697	460	332	622	654	666	* 609	3,343	2,354	- -	2,605	5,305
Fermoy	4,687	7,474	5,075	1,298	1,602	878	21,014	915	1,333	1,492	2,341	2,128	1,984	10,193	10,821	- -	14,857	20,345
Kanturk	1,113	2,775	4,553	3,128	1,498	430	13,497	804	1,084	2,199	3,312	2,516	2,834	12,749	748	- -	16,292	18,099
Kinsale	943	1,935	862	1,127	770	564	6,201	535	482	542	552	498	830	3,439	2,762	- -	2,648	4,682
Macroom	2,326	620	575	1,259	945	1,302	7,027	374	412	662	1,484	1,355	1,145	5,432	1,595	- -	4,668	5,626
Mallow	110	280	3,138	3,593	2,644	1,343	11,108	612	519	766	919	1,039	919	4,774	6,334	- -	4,991	12,991
Middleton	384	520	14	18	18	- -	954	984	814	1,194	1,163	1,443	* 1,354	6,952	- -	5,998	8,819	21,849
Skibbereen	1,676	1,295	3,705	2,618	1,177	809	11,280	1,133	1,656	2,586	2,812	3,389	2,806	14,382	- -	3,102	8,247	11,444
KERRY - - Cahirciveen	968	1,347	306	211	60	11	2,903	277	415	557	985	1,061	1,091	4,386	- -	1,483	2,993	2,496
Dingle	214	847	929	774	460	809	4,033	894	954	1,161	1,178	1,174	* 1,174	6,535	- -	2,502	† —	† —
Kenmare	736	800	648	498	314	78	3,074	1,012	1,234	1,437	1,659	1,564	1,607	8,513	- -	5,439	5,529	3,675
Killarney	2,208	616	2,744	2,574	1,862	1,523	11,527	842	1,355	2,031	2,228	1,731	2,049	10,236	1,291	- -	13,295	11,422
Listowel	1,389	827	5,690	3,925	2,675	1,503	16,009	1,408	1,865	3,931	3,426	3,372	3,538	17,540	- -	1,531	12,959	11,425
Tralee	2,583	1,277	546	252	340	2,533	7,531	1,590	1,724	1,813	2,088	2,277	* 2,469	11,961	- -	4,430	† 13,367	14,625
LIMERICK - Kilmallock	3,551	3,109	1,648	552	390	438	9,688	1,137	1,825	2,617	3,372	3,510	3,721	16,182	- -	6,494	11,447	15,876
Limerick	3,679	7,649	6,144	5,381	2,504	858	26,215	2,909	4,950	4,217	4,590	3,714	* 4,501	24,881	1,334	- -	15,314	28,570
Newcastle	9,792	5,592	2,387	979	406	342	19,498	2,240	2,345	3,289	3,621	4,086	4,101	19,682	- -	184	19,787	13,231
Rathkeale	4,087	1,789	352	584	2,432	2,069	11,313	2,059	2,297	3,748	2,596	2,516	* 2,975	16,197	- -	4,884	13,206	14,694
TIPPERARY - Carrick-on-Suir	972	1,801	2,954	1,732	849	154	8,462	429	545	601	715	1,027	730	4,047	4,415	- -	4,528	7,991
Cashel	3,261	787	3,247	4,086	2,633	1,497	15,511	958	2,003	3,184	3,543	2,905	2,602	15,195	316	- -	9,240	12,249
Clogheen	1,943	1,884	1,178	952	704	641	7,302	640	724	968	1,475	1,240	1,552	6,599	703	- -	5,091	6,425
Clonmel	785	476	84	2,756	3,353	1,700	9,154	891	920	1,306	1,714	1,608	1,398	7,837	1,317	- -	7,446	7,611
Nenagh	3,065	3,329	244	3,052	4,613	3,684	17,987	553	1,025	1,442	2,578	3,214	* 2,960	11,490	6,587	- -	11,586	13,916
Roscrea	2,307	2,147	3,312	2,206	716	287	10,975	1,532	1,353	1,679	1,965	1,646	1,507	9,774	1,201	- -	6,525	10,339
Thurles	- none -	3,131	5,097	3,757	1,689	929	14,603	1,155	1,477	1,761	2,038	1,797	2,057	10,285	4,318	- -	9,923	11,036
Tipperary	2,679	1,041	968	544	360	240	5,832	1,533	1,647	2,140	2,814	3,286	3,721	15,141	- -	9,309	12,925	12,832
WATERFORD - Dungarvan	7	2,196	4,096	4,039	2,030	1,074	13,442	571	658	1,263	1,358	1,537	1,347	6,734	6,708	- -	5,984	12,415
Lismore	- none -	2,615	3,236	1,903	945	356	9,055	469	429	528	726	621	* 934	3,707	5,348	- -	3,019	7,013
Waterford	4,820	4,049	2,073	1,417	780	429	13,568	1,207	1,362	1,476	2,055	1,694	1,494	9,288	4,280	- -	9,241	8,154
TOTAL - - - £.	72,562	86,701	82,672	66,327	44,323	31,912	384,497	42,615	54,048	69,257	78,847	77,407	80,631	402,805	62,062	80,370	316,903	398,273

* Estimated.

† Dingle Union included in Tralee Union, for the half-year ended 31 March 1848.

STATEMENT, for each Union, of the COLLECTION and EXPENSES of each Month, for the Half-Year ended 31 March 1849, and TOTAL for the Half-Year—*continued.*

NAMES OF UNIONS.	COLLECTION.							EXPENSES.							Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Total Expenses for Half-Year ended 31 March 1848.	Collection during the Half-Year ended 31 March 1848.
	October 1848.	November 1848.	December 1848.	January 1849.	February 1849.	March 1849.	TOTAL Six Months.	October 1848.	November 1848.	December 1848.	January 1849.	February 1849.	March 1849.	TOTAL. Six Months.				
PROVINCE OF LEINSTER:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
COUNTY OF																		
CARLOW - - Carlow - - - -	1,048	412	668	5,512	4,011	2,121	13,772	1,427	1,435	1,439	1,694	2,227	2,335	10,557	3,215	- -	9,834	11,235
DUBLIN - - Balrothery - - -	624	614	163	70	605	* 605	2,681	350	359	381	452	510	* 857	2,909	- -	228	2,800	2,952
Dublin, North - -	6,113	6,989	5,645	5,281	4,425	4,733	33,186	1,871	1,735	1,698	1,793	1,747	2,356	11,200	21,986	- -	23,645	25,123
Dublin South - - -	2,565	2,321	1,339	1,078	556	328	8,187	2,110	2,828	3,082	2,698	2,766	2,568	16,052	- -	7,865	20,235	11,303
Rathdown - - -	1,145	778	221	70	783	1,355	4,352	399	932	615	491	469	1,624	4,530	- -	178	4,691	4,916
KILDARE - - Athy - - - -	1,284	2,515	2,783	2,351	1,465	868	11,266	381	597	815	969	1,051	866	4,679	6,587	- -	5,366	6,640
Celbridge - - -	348	206	122	68	83	19	846	232	264	207	245	365	256	1,569	- -	723	1,776	3,417
Naas - - - -	292	2,236	2,629	2,806	2,759	1,301	12,023	496	745	687	1,175	813	1,390	5,306	6,717	- -	5,807	11,180
KILKENNY - - Callan - - - -	3,635	1,838	2,135	458	585	1,496	10,147	731	1,216	1,694	1,921	1,696	1,807	9,065	1,082	- -	6,352	7,306
Kilkenny - - -	5,303	5,076	4,662	2,825	1,215	735	19,816	1,080	1,390	1,663	2,151	2,686	2,873	11,843	7,973	- -	11,450	19,132
KING'S COUNTY - Edenderry - - -	651	518	236	271	1,514	2,032	5,222	460	444	540	664	579	669	3,356	1,866	- -	2,231	4,239
Parsonstown - - -	869	278	1,311	1,820	1,617	1,348	7,243	668	812	1,161	984	1,150	1,572	6,347	896	- -	4,077	9,655
Tullamore - - -	1,186	3,268	2,171	1,740	302	41	8,708	1,488	1,517	1,483	1,713	1,762	1,664	9,627	- -	919	6,943	7,544
LONGFORD - - Granard - - -	98	1,199	5,276	1,775	755	* 427	9,530	1,016	1,331	1,332	1,390	1,280	1,705	8,054	1,476	- -	4,442	7,282
Longford - - -	768	4,638	3,084	2,676	1,750	1,235	14,151	1,212	1,871	1,749	1,978	2,299	1,938	11,047	3,104	- -	9,221	6,221
LOUTH - - - Ardee - - - -	1,368	20	1,521	2,927	1,422	* 660	7,918	* 584	* 1,061	* 460	* 850	* 1,273	646	4,874	3,044	- -	5,251	8,503
Drogheda - - -	773	770	267	320	1,037	1,412	4,579	311	369	440	470	482	587	2,659	1,920	- -	6,658	8,037
Dundalk - - -	782	559	449	1,097	1,354	1,271	5,512	683	597	630	645	601	676	3,832	1,680	- -	3,569	2,760
MEATH - - - Dunshaughlin - -	144	662	902	1,657	1,548	1,142	6,055	243	491	491	651	460	529	2,865	3,190	- -	4,189	4,301
Kells - - - -	1,970	2,921	2,485	2,457	2,862	639	13,334	852	948	1,098	1,254	1,271	1,290	6,713	6,621	- -	7,367	7,294
Navan - - - -	495	2,026	1,435	1,164	1,185	1,250	7,555	554	692	767	880	851	765	4,509	3,046	- -	6,421	5,436
Oldcastle - - -	781	1,494	1,768	1,465	1,504	707	7,719	682	891	950	1,324	1,174	1,183	6,204	1,515	- -	8,171	8,177
Trim - - - -	1,199	278	285	835	970	* 1,216	4,783	605	691	754	775	706	716	4,249	534	- -	3,795	3,010
QUEEN'S COUNTY Abbeyleix - - -	990	829	763	424	420	1,405	4,831	685	977	1,101	1,054	942	1,058	5,817	- -	986	5,564	6,769
Mountmelick - - -	2,410	1,553	1,123	632	583	1,358	7,659	1,318	1,192	1,456	1,662	1,609	1,774	9,011	- -	1,352	8,939	8,222
WESTMEATH Athlone - - -	939	615	963	2,103	2,630	* 1,375	8,625	1,022	2,060	1,481	1,542	1,462	1,549	8,934	- -	309	3,269	3,007
Mullingar - - -	1,164	288	1,187	4,839	5,472	3,095	16,045	1,000	1,444	1,712	1,785	1,083	1,551	8,575	7,470	- -	7,961	2,366
WEXFORD - - Enniscorthy - - -	731	1,721	3,617	2,530	1,954	1,637	12,193	726	766	983	1,278	1,010	1,083	5,846	6,347	- -	8,076	11,555
Gorey - - - -	2,341	841	278	39	205	1,207	4,911	635	607	694	842	1,086	1,276	5,140	- -	229	4,484	3,227
New Ross - - -	2,975	1,176	552	389	316	957	6,365	699	833	757	1,081	1,282	1,753	6,410	- -	45	9,779	11,341
Wexford - - -	1,273	394	318	103	89	39	2,216	576	570	572	659	553	1,033	3,963	- -	1,747	4,787	8,682
WICKLOW - - Baltinglass - - -	713	853	480	749	1,158	1,738	5,691	554	886	773	829	607	932	4,581	1,110	- -	3,783	4,096
Rathdrum - - -	1,503	1,192	598	280	87	105	3,765	465	610	689	838	769	531	3,902	- -	137	4,081	3,237
Shillelagh - - -	746	1,006	902	1,343	701	637	5,335	268	303	361	335	313	338	1,918	3,417	- -	2,228	3,398
TOTAL - - - £.	50,224	52,084	52,338	54,154	47,922	40,494	296,216	26,383	33,464	34,715	39,072	38,934	43,755	216,323	94,610	14,717	227,242	251,563

* Estimated.

STATEMENT, for each Union, of the COLLECTION and EXPENSES of each Month, for the Half-Year ended 31 March 1849, and TOTAL for the Half-Year—*continued.*

NAMES OF UNIONS.	COLLECTION. October 1848.	November 1848.	December 1848.	January 1849.	February 1849.	March 1849.	Total Six Months.	EXPENSES. October 1848.	November 1848.	December 1848.	January 1849.	February 1849.	March 1849.	Total Six Months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Total Expenses for Half-Year ended 31 March 1848.	Collection during the Half-Year ended 31 March 1848.
PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
County of GALWAY — Ballinasloe	1,606	895	1,711	4,927	3,273	2,578	14,990	1,307	1,336	1,232	2,345	2,379	2,776	11,375	3,615	- -	4,143	15,516
Clifden	1,032	458	199	541	118	90	2,438	1,976	1,403	1,201	1,289	1,346	1,659	8,874	- -	6,436	4,643	2,211
Galway	1,623	3,191	2,892	1,353	693	416	10,173	2,283	1,953	2,250	2,390	2,619	3,075	14,570	- -	4,397	9,574	6,353
Gort	728	3,897	2,464	1,585	805	478	9,957	1,236	1,965	2,237	1,757	1,676	1,820	10,691	- -	734	7,231	2,310
Loughrea	2,700	4,580	3,985	730	315	158	12,468	1,048	1,638	1,542	1,623	1,744	1,813	9,408	3,060	- -	4,490	7,888
Tuam	1,413	1,196	2,749	2,268	1,540	879	10,045	1,486	1,669	2,012	* 2,016	* 2,450	* 2,450	12,083	- -	2,038	4,593	4,663
LEITRIM — Carrick-on-Shannon	1,357	2,072	1,912	1,168	865	699	8,073	1,406	1,819	1,714	1,922	1,729	1,886	10,476	- -	2,403	5,020	4,240
Manorhamilton	1,065	2,064	1,128	790	177	79	5,303	286	272	889	372	441	1,559	3,819	1,484	- -	2,501	3,758
Mohill	2,000	2,594	2,193	941	606	633	8,967	1,304	1,419	1,617	1,449	1,474	1,586	8,849	118	- -	3,964	3,349
MAYO — Ballina	2,687	5,133	1,944	1,225	716	324	12,029	4,412	4,950	4,371	4,784	4,183	4,336	27,036	- -	15,007	12,740	7,349
Ballinrobe	179	1,928	2,484	1,870	1,983	1,353	9,797	2,017	1,804	2,016	2,690	3,195	3,876	15,598	- -	5,801	10,555	5,750
Castlebar	303	120	1,267	1,711	743	343	4,487	1,779	1,693	1,655	1,939	1,828	2,335	11,229	- -	6,742	7,364	2,483
Swineford	720	738	946	975	1,182	536	5,097	1,355	1,320	1,516	1,683	1,586	1,598	9,058	- -	3,961	2,719	2,085
Westport	514	713	792	1,219	616	336	4,190	1,116	1,901	1,632	1,722	1,966	2,411	10,748	- -	6,558	9,102	3,532
ROSCOMMON — Boyle	733	3,420	3,225	1,741	945	429	10,493	605	1,257	1,480	* 1,461	* 1,520	* 1,521	7,844	2,649	- -	2,175	6,191
Castlerea	2,768	1,678	1,658	1,840	1,360	1,823	11,127	1,754	2,006	1,842	1,681	1,841	1,841	10,965	162	- -	3,846	9,087
Roscommon	2,800	1,572	402	2,420	3,184	2,512	12,890	2,147	2,366	2,478	2,518	2,428	2,708	14,645	- -	1,755	8,823	8,923
SLIGO — Sligo	1,437	3,526	5,887	3,559	1,356	1,481	17,246	1,290	1,690	2,225	2,516	2,174	1,894	11,789	5,457	- -	10,433	14,018
Total £.	25,665	39,775	37,838	30,863	20,482	15,147	169,770	28,807	32,461	33,909	36,157	36,579	41,144	209,057	16,545	55,832	113,916	109,716

* The Returns of the expenses of Tuam and Boyle Unions not being received, the sums given above for those Unions are estimated.

SUMMARY.

ULSTER	31,925	34,397	34,183	34,225	31,109	28,239	195,078	16,322	19,542	22,962	25,448	23,319	23,784	131,377	70,834	7,133	148,305	201,804
MUNSTER	72,562	86,701	82,672	66,327	44,323	31,912	384,497	42,615	54,048	69,257	78,847	77,407	80,631	402,805	62,062	80,370	316,903	398,273
LEINSTER	50,224	52,084	52,338	54,154	47,922	40,494	296,216	26,383	33,464	34,715	39,072	38,934	43,755	216,323	94,610	14,717	227,242	251,563
CONNAUGHT	25,665	39,775	37,838	30,863	20,482	15,147	169,770	28,807	32,461	33,909	36,157	36,579	41,144	209,057	16,545	55,832	113,916	109,716
Total £.	180,376	212,957	207,031	185,569	143,836	115,792	1,045,561	114,127	139,515	160,843	179,524	176,239	189,314	959,562	244,051	158,052	806,366	961,356

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the NET DEBTS or NET CREDITS; also, of the Amount of POOR-RATE Uncollected, at the Close of March in the Years 1848 and 1849.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	March 1849.			March 1848.		
	Net Debts on 31 March 1849.	Net Credits on 31 March 1849.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1849.	Net Debts on 31 March 1848.	Net Credits on 31 March 1848.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1848.
PROVINCE OF ULSTER:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
County of—						
ANTRIM - Antrim	-	2,465	none	-	1,428	—
Ballycastle	-	1,892	490	-	479	2,266
Ballymena	-	1,523	2,632	464	-	6,304
Ballymoney	-	520	3,361	-	323	2,735
Belfast	3,598	-	13,072	1,703	-	8,346
Larne	-	1,485	70	-	377	980
Lisburn	-	2,054	1,614	458	-	153
ARMAGH - Armagh	-	324	6,337	-	1,295	14,664
Lurgan	-	1,445	3,136	129	-	4,391
CAVAN - Bailieborough	1,166	-	3,004	973	-	2,800
Cavan	-	2,499	-	956	-	1,531	1,863
Cootehill	-	-	2,156	3,957	1,566	-	7,903
DONEGAL - Ballyshannon	-	-	3,600	1,244	-	2,004	1,268
Donegal	-	-	791	3,014	734	-	3,462
Dunfanaghy	-	-	169	464	82	-	1,127
Glenties	-	1,269	-	464	2,125	-	1,020
Inishowen	-	-	* 1,197	3,347	44	-	3,823
Letterkenny	-	573	-	1,236	505	-	910
Milford	-	-	1,271	694	-	271	648
Stranorlar	-	88	-	1,953	-	524	1,305
DOWN - Banbridge	-	-	* 1,572	2,116	-	23	4,411
Downpatrick	-	705	-	1,130	-	2,947	1,590
Kilkeel	-	-	650	182	60	-	52
Newry	-	-	2,048	3,952	-	32	3,149
Newtownards	-	625	-	6,040	1,530	-	7,904
FERMANAGH - Enniskillen	-	-	2,094	2,500	1,595	-	4,735
Lisnaskea	-	-	1,287	1,342	-	1,447	3,394
Lowtherstown	-	-	2,016	970	-	60	1,574
LONDONDERRY - Coleraine	-	-	1,273	1,525	-	80	2,327
Londonderry	-	-	84	1,808	-	31	3,235
Magherafelt	-	-	1,780	2,592	-	1,019	3,094
Newtownlimavady	-	-	456	1,722	-	325	3,460
MONAGHAN - Carrickmacross	-	-	61	1,480	-	756	801
Castleblaney	-	-	173	3,336	1,853	-	2,009
Clones	-	-	1,716	2,444	116	-	4,515
Monaghan	-	-	2,382	2,338	-	3,928	2,453
TYRONE - Castlederg	-	-	509	77	100	-	283
Clogher	-	254	-	824	-	506	540
Cookstown	-	645	-	412	194	-	762
Dungannon	-	-	1,262	2,789	544	-	2,065
Gortin	-	151	-	947	492	-	555
Omagh	-	-	2,473	4,425	-	211	6,259
Strabane	-	-	1,253	2,337	-	4,047	1,299
TOTAL - - - £.	11,573	43,981	98,333	15,267	23,644	126,434

* Estimated from February Return.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Net Debts or Net Credits, and Poor-Rate Uncollected—*continued.*

NAMES OF UNIONS.	March 1849.			March 1848.		
	Net Debts on 31 March 1849.	Net Credits on 31 March 1849.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1849.	Net Debts on 31 March 1848	Net Credits on 31 March 1848.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1848.
PROVINCE OF MUNSTER:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
County of— CLARE - Ennis	11,160	- -	3,074	281	- -	2,961
Ennistymon	12,948	- -	10,347	1,540	- -	784
Kilrush	12,947	- -	12,958	2,980	- -	7,477
Scariff	14,439	- -	4,424	4,199	- -	6,832
CORK - Bandon	- -	61	5,301	- -	4,146	2,681
Bantry	6,474	- -	2,252	4,986	- -	2,665
Cork	- -	1,991	7,174	- -	4,640	18,410
Dunmanway	- -	2,789	1,098	- -	2,280	1,502
Fermoy	- -	6,313	3,654	- -	2,041	3,952
Kanturk	- -	2,725	3,006	2,361	- -	22,317
Kinsale	- -	2,296	1,152	1,775	- -	1,254
Macroom	- -	984	4,855	174	- -	12,168
Mallow	- -	10,252	3,080	- -	6,157	1,802
Midleton	1,858	- -	24,601	- -	9,654	5,038
Skibbereen	5,664	- -	2,638	- -	2,463	5,488
KERRY - Cahirciveen	3,702	- -	457	1,149	- -	1,331
Dingle	5,032	—	3,525	845	—	—
Kenmare	7,529	- -	3,662	1,982	- -	908
Killarney	- -	2,184	4,647	2,634	- -	1,244
Listowel	8,065	- -	5,658	2,733	- -	3,274
Tralee	9,412	- -	9,904	1,650	- -	2,926
LIMERICK - Kilmallock	5,593	- -	21,640	2,260	- -	28,927
Limerick	8,714	- -	8,640	- -	6,701	12,925
Newcastle	3,718	- -	4,119	9,528	- -	20,602
Rathkeale	4,059	- -	13,394	- -	1,309	20,302
TIPPERARY - Carrick-on-Suir	- -	1,934	2,736	1,037	- -	1,849
Cashel	9,862	- -	8,055	837	- -	6,617
Clogheen	3,202	- -	8,207	- -	434	1,762
Clonmel	- -	103	4,000	- -	1,042	2,609
Nenagh	3,697	- -	7,478	1,771	- -	9,901
Roscrea	4,573	- -	3,502	- -	946	5,460
Thurles	3,862	- -	5,478	125	- -	8,849
Tipperary	14,404	- -	13,934	- -	1,072	6,182
WATERFORD - Dungarvan	- -	7,883	1,549	- -	5,866	1,718
Lismore	- -	3,713	662	- -	3,189	635
Waterford	- -	3,063	2,595	1,755	- -	3,039
TOTAL £.	160,914	46,291	223,456	41,312	47,709	236,391

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Net Debts or Net Credits, and Poor-Rate Uncollected—*continued.*

NAMES OF UNIONS.	March 1849.			March 1848.		
	Net Debts on 31 March 1849.	Net Credits on 31 March 1849.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1849.	Net Debts on 31 March 1848.	Net Credits on 31 March 1848.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1848.
PROVINCE OF LEINSTER:	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
County of—						
CARLOW - - Carlow - - - -	- -	502	6,842	345	- -	3,996
DUBLIN - - Balrothery - - -	*781	- -	- -	467	- -	484
Dublin, North - -	- -	1,795	14,375	- -	973	21,563
„ South - -	6,723	- -	13,894	3,263	- -	8,738
Rathdown - - -	1,711	- -	5,015	1,303	- -	1,535
KILDARE - - Athy - - - -	- -	2,369	3,935	390	- -	4,905
Celbridge - - -	- -	624	385	- -	1,006	3,556
Naas - - - -	- -	6,693	3,035	- -	3,768	1,701
KILKENNY - - Callan - - -	2,893	- -	6,908	- -	43	3,885
Kilkenny - - -	- -	*8,520	4,911	1,242	- -	10,956
KING'S - - Edenderry - - -	- -	1,411	2,014	- -	1,484	679
Parsonstown - -	- -	880	7,510	- -	1,630	5,592
Tullamore - - -	1,133	- -	10,056	2,054	- -	1,785
LONGFORD - - Granard - - -	666	- -	2,616	- -	799	7,895
Longford - - -	1,515	- -	3,562	5,679	- -	18,934
LOUTH - - Ardee† - - -	- -	- -	456	- -	583	2,186
Drogheda - - -	- -	959	1,939	980	- -	1,617
Dundalk - - -	- -	394	2,386	1,052	- -	1,709
MEATH - - Dunshaughlin - -	- -	1,910	1,138	770	- -	3,905
Kells - - - -	- -	1,342	992	1,956	- -	1,349
Navan - - -	230	- -	1,829	1,875	- -	4,576
Oldcastle - - -	- -	422	2,915	1,349	- -	6,471
Trim - - - -	- -	610	3,334	76	- -	92
QUEEN'S - - Abbeyleix - - -	2,985	- -	5,608	1,599	- -	1,537
Mountmelick - -	4,914	- -	5,517	2,210	- -	4,071
WESTMEATH - Athlone - - -	*2,934	- -	7,095	3,858	- -	15,051
Mullingar - - -	- -	1,749	1,598	4,634	- -	972
WEXFORD - - Enniscorthy - -	- -	3,972	4,012	- -	803	5,531
Gorey - - - -	- -	267	3,974	639	- -	7,562
New Ross - - -	3,686	- -	13,450	1,260	- -	6,805
Wexford - - -	543	- -	11,976	- -	3,492	6,217
WICKLOW - - Baltinglass - - -	- -	740	2,770	- -	682	720
Rathdrum - - -	- -	511	964	305	- -	6,265
Shillelagh - - -	- -	1,319	1,137	385	- -	1,072
TOTAL - - - £.	30,714	36,989	158,148	37,691	15,263	173,912

* Estimated from February Return.

† Ardee Returns not received in Office.

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Net Debts or Net Credits, and Poor-Rate Uncollected—*continued.*

NAMES OF UNIONS.		March 1849.			March 1848.		
		Net Debts on 31 March 1849.	Net Credits on 31 March 1849.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1849.	Net Debts on 31 March 1848.	Net Credits on 31 March 1848.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1848.
PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT:		£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
County of— GALWAY	Ballinasloe	- -	3,843	11,885	- -	8,622	9,378
	Clifden	5,977	- -	1,260	1,293	- -	1,063
	Galway	11,080	- -	10,032	9,644	- -	8,055
	Gort	10,704	- -	3,817	1,892	- -	7,818
	Loughrea	1,611	- -	2,146	- -	2,324	5,761
	Tuam	8,434	- -	6,036	6,119	- -	1,463
LEITRIM	Carrick-on-Shannon	7,520	- -	5,647	5,165	- -	7,435
	Manorhamilton	- -	388	1,139	246	- -	2,754
	Mohill	*2,132	- -	2,713	2,440	- -	5,242
MAYO	Ballina	19,032	- -	3,986	2,443	- -	5,779
	Ballinrobe	7,843	- -	7,549	3,027	- -	8,371
	Castlebar	8,310	- -	8,104	7,354	- -	7,463
	Swineford	7,412	- -	6,209	2,185	- -	8,177
	Westport	*6,862	- -	4,062	6,305	- -	4,894
ROSCOMMON	Boyle *	- * -	- -	- * -	433	- -	9,414
	Castlerea	2,898	- -	14,667	1,865	- -	8,223
	Roscommon	11,023	- -	6,216	2,631	- -	5,121
SLIGO	Sligo	2,166	- -	7,583	3,914	- -	18,697
	TOTAL £.	113,004	4,231	102,851	56,956	10,946	125,118

* Boyle Return not received in Office.

SUMMARY.

PROVINCES.	March 1849.			March 1848.		
	Net Debts on 31 March 1849.	Net Credits on 31 March 1849.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1849.	Net Debts on 31 March 1848.	Net Credits on 31 March 1848.	Amount of Rate remaining Uncollected on 31 March 1848.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
ULSTER	11,573	43,981	98,333	15,267	23,644	126,434
MUNSTER	160,914	46,291	223,456	41,312	47,709	236,391
LEINSTER	30,714	36,989	158,148	37,691	15,263	173,912
CONNAUGHT	113,004	4,231	102,851	56,956	10,946	125,118
TOTALS £.	316,205	131,492	582,788	151,226	97,562	661,855

Note :—The above Statement of Expenditure does not include any part of the repayment of Advances under the Temporary Relief Act.

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7189. From these we shall be enabled to deduce the actual financial condition, not only of the eight Unions first referred to, or of the 21 Unions subsequently referred to, but of the 10 Unions which you have described as being liable to very considerable pressure?

Yes, for the greater number of them.

7190. Have you compared these with the antecedent accounts up to the 29th of September last?

I have not made the comparison; in fact, I have only just received them.

7191. Are you enabled to state generally, whether the condition of those Unions at the present time is better or worse than it was at the time of the previous Return; namely, the accounts up to the 29th of September?

I have not compared them with September.

7192. Have you compared them as exhibiting the state of those Unions at March 1849 and March 1848?

Yes, I have. These documents which I have now put in will present a comparison between the state of the Unions now and at the corresponding period last year; and it will be evident to your Lordships that the Unions have been increasing their debts to a most deplorable extent; and it is a matter of the greatest importance that assistance should be given to them in some form or other for the purpose of preventing them getting more into debt. I cannot too strongly express my opinion of the ruinous policy of pressing these Unions too hard, and withholding from them assistance; at present, they are still going on increasing their debts. In some Unions the only way in which the present system of relief is continued is by the contractors speculating and continuing to give credit to the Unions.

7193. At exorbitant rates?

Yes; occasionally, 25 or 30 per cent. higher than the ordinary prices.

7194. In those cases where the contractor speculates in the manner which you have justly described, does that give to such contractor more or less a control over the prices which he charges to those Unions?

Decidedly; the prices would vary 25 or 30 per cent. from what they would be if the Union were in funds.

7195. Referring to the papers which are already before us, and laying the foundation of the examination as to the existing state of things, by reference to the past, I wish to call your attention to these facts:—In November 1848, it is reported that in Ballina Union the Guardians were served with notices from two late contractors for debts of 5,346 *l.*; that even the supplies for the hospital had been refused to be furnished by the contractor; that in respect to Erris, the debt for meal was 884 *l.*; that the contractor threatened to stop the supplies to that Workhouse; that in Clifden Union the contractor for supplying it at Roundstone had refused to give meal without cash; that in Galway the principal holders of meal had one and all refused to supply the necessary quantity, unless a guarantee was given that it should be paid for on delivery; that the dealers in Clifden had positively refused to supply; that in Gort several of the creditors had taken legal proceedings for the sums due to them, the principal of which was 1,317 *l.*, and similar demands and similar legal proceedings. Have you any doubt, from the papers now before you, that the condition of those and other Unions in respect of debt is much more alarming than it was in the month of November last?

I have no doubt of that; the net debts of the whole of Connaught at this time are 103,724 *l.*

7196. What were they in March 1848?

In March 1848, they were 56,956 *l.* It would be of the greatest importance to make arrangements, by which the Unions should not be permitted to get more into debt.

7197. From the papers before Parliament, it appears that in Ballina the debt had increased in the one year, from January 1848 to January 1849, from 5,500 *l.* to 18,000 *l.*; that in Bantry the debt had increased in the same period from 4,300 *l.* to 6,600 *l.*; that in Clifden it had increased from 1,000 *l.* to 6,500 *l.*; in Galway from 3,500 *l.* to 9,000 *l.*; and in Kenmare from 2,500 *l.* to 6,700 *l.*

That

That being the state reported in January last of those distressed Unions, do you conceive the exigency to be more pressing at the present time?
Yes.

7198. Even supposing that funds were supplied for the purpose of meeting the current expenditure in those Unions over and above all expenses, do you think it would be possible, economically or successfully, to carry on the Poor Law relief unless some provision be made for those debts?
No.

7199. Is it practicable?
No; some provision ought to be made for those debts.

7200. Are the instances increasing, in fact, in your experience, in which legal proceedings have been resorted to against the Boards of Guardians for the recovery of those debts?
Not many instances of that kind have been brought under my notice.

7201. Have there been executions put in in the Workhouses?
Yes, in some houses.

7202. Those accumulations, of course, fall upon the Unions?
Yes.

7203. Besides which, there is the increased charge which such contractors having a debt against the Union have the means of enforcing?
Yes.

7204. Under all these circumstances, do you not consider that economy, as well as the future administration of the Poor Law, is connected with an early adjustment, in some way or another, of these debts?
Yes; at the same time, what is of the greatest importance is, that they should not be allowed to get more into debt.

7205. Supposing that these existing debts of which you have spoken were actually provided for and disposed of, is it your opinion that the Unions of which you have been speaking would be able to meet their expenditure, and to go on even after those debts were removed?
Before next harvest?

7206. Before next harvest?
No.

7207. Can you tell us, in reference to the Galway Unions, what the estimate is for the administration of the Poor Law in those Unions till next harvest, and what the estimate is of the possible collection of rates within them?
I am not able to supply the Committee at this moment with such an estimate.

7208. In reference to the Union of Glenties, it appears in a Report made, dated January 22, from the Guardians, and laid before Parliament, that "if all uncollected rate could be got in, it would be scarcely sufficient to carry on the Union to the 1st of March; that the obstacle to any additional rates is that several of the small occupiers are not able to pay." Can you tell us, in reference to Glenties, what the estimated amount of supporting the poor in that Union will be to the next harvest, and what the estimated collection of rates may be?
I have no estimate of any of the Unions at this moment; but in the Union of Glenties the net debts of Glenties are not so great as in some others; the net debts of Glenties Union on the 31st of March 1849 were 1,269*l.*

7209. The question has no reference to debts; it excludes debts altogether?
I am perfectly aware of that; but the existing debts of any Union are an important element in determining whether such Union will be able to support its own poor.

7210. What is the estimated collection of rates in Glenties from this time to harvest, and the estimated amount of expenditure from this time to harvest?
I will endeavour to obtain the information.

7211. In respect to the Union of Cootehill, it appears from the report of the official correspondent of Government, that he states, on the 25th of January that

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that he "could form no opinion of how funds would be raised to support the poor from June to September. The means of many proprietors are either exhausted or nearly so; the means of occupiers are also nearly exhausted." Can you supply us in the same way with an estimate of the rates that are likely to be collected in the Union of Cootehill, and an estimate of the funds required for the relief of the distress between this time and harvest?

I will endeavour to do so.

7212. Take the case of the Union of Cavan in like manner; it is stated by the official organ of the Government, that "the means of proprietors and occupiers are very much exhausted, and they all appear in a sinking condition;" will you have the goodness to get us, in reference to that Union which is not comprehended in the most distressed list, the same calculation?

Yes.

7213. Will you be so obliging as to procure us the same estimates in respect to the Unions of Enniskillen, Ballina, Erris, Swineford, Castlebar, Westport, Ballinrobe, Clifden, Galway, Sligo, Manorhamilton, Mohill, Boyle, Roscommon, Athlone, Longford, Cashel, Thurles, Scariff, Ennis, Ennistymon, Kilrush, Dingle, Cahirciveen, Kenmare, Bantry and Kanturk?

I will endeavour to do so.

7214. Referring to your former evidence, the Committee may conclude from it that you do not consider that within these distressed districts, for the ensuing year, between this and harvest, there would be the means of administering Poor Law relief under the present law without funds *ab extra?*

I do not.

7215. In relation to making good any deficiency of those means in the more distressed Unions—take, for instance, the eight Unions that are in the first list—do you conceive that there would be any adequate means found of meeting the deficiency in any of those Unions by a Union rate, not exceeding 2*s.*, leviable upon any of the Electoral Divisions?

No.

7216. Supposing all the Electoral Divisions to be already exhausted in means, it is scarcely necessary to ask you whether they, being exhausted in their collective capacity, could make good individually any amount of additional rate; but supposing that, as in the case of Galway, an additional rate might by possibility be raised in the single Electoral Division of Galway itself, though in no other Electoral Division within the Union, what do you think would be the consequence of raising a rate of 2*s.* in the pound upon that single Electoral Division for the relief of the destitution of the remaining part of the Union?

It would occasion great discontent in the Electoral Division of Galway, and would create in their minds a strong feeling of injustice.

7217. Practically speaking, in the extreme case of one solvent Electoral Division, and its being in a Union where all the other Electoral Divisions were insolvent, would not an attempt to raise a Union 2*s.* rate be practically the very reverse of what was contemplated; would it not be an Electoral Division rate for the benefit of the rest of the Union, and not a Union rate for the benefit of the peculiar distressed Electoral Division?

It would often be so.

7218. That being the extreme case, in proportion as it receded from that where there were two solvent Electoral Divisions, or three in a Union consisting of ten or twelve, would not the same principle apply, although varying in its proportion?

Yes.

7219. Have you not had very considerable difficulties in some parts of Ireland in collecting the rates, even as they stand?

Yes.

7220. I hold in my hand a Return made to Parliament, in which the military parties called on to aid the civil power in the collection of poor's-rates from October 1848 to February 1849, and of the police likewise, are given; it appears from this Return, that of military there were 4,538 rank and file employed for that

that purpose, and of police 2,558 employed; do you think that greater difficulty, greater exertion and greater force would be required, if, in addition to the collection of the rate for the benefit of the particular district, a further rate were to be collected for the relief of other districts?

I do.

7221. Will you have the goodness to tell us your opinion of raising a 2*s.* rate in aid in benefit of distressed Unions?

Over Ireland?

7222. No; a Union rate of 2*s.*?

I confess that I am on the whole opposed to levying any Union rate, as distinguished from a rate on an Electoral Division, but the subject is a very difficult one.

7223. What are the grounds of your opinion?

I am afraid that the door would be opened for tricks and frauds; moreover, up to a certain extent, the same evil would result as from making Unions the areas of taxation instead of Electoral Divisions; and I am on the whole opposed to making Unions the areas of taxation in Ireland.

7224. Unions are much larger in Ireland than in England?

Much larger.

7225. In proportion as they are much larger, do you not think that the inconvenience would be greater wherever it was applied to a larger surface?

Decidedly.

7226. Will you state the grounds of your objection to making Unions the areas of taxation?

My objection to Unions as areas of taxation is principally founded on its taking away the motive from individuals to look very closely into the administration of relief, and to check abuses. I think, in consequence of a Union being divided into Electoral Divisions, individuals pay greater attention to applications for relief, and exert themselves more to prevent improper persons coming on the relief lists; I think that the motive for good administration would be taken away, to a certain extent, if Unions were the areas of taxation.

7227. Do you not think that it would practically have the effect of throwing all the business into the hands of the few Guardians who happened to reside near the Union-house?

I do, in many instances.

7228. The inducement for Guardians who resided at a distance to attend would be taken away?

To a very great extent; I have no doubt that in many cases they would never attend at all.

7229. Would not that be peculiarly prejudicial to Ireland, taking the circumstances of Ireland into account, the position of the Workhouses in large towns, and the importance of getting the rural Guardians to attend?

It would.

7230. Assuming the state of the Unions in the West of Ireland to be such as you have described to the Committee, will you state what you conceive would be the practical operation and effect of an enactment imposing rates in aid upon those Unions to the extent of 2*s.*, wherever certain Electoral Districts within them were unable to meet the demands upon them?

I think it would produce very great discontent; it would open the door to tricks and frauds, and it would have to a certain degree the same effect in those Electoral Divisions as Union taxation.

7231. Will you have the goodness to take in your hand the papers which have been presented to Parliament on this subject, and look over the list of those eight Unions in page 4, and tell us whether it is your judgment that a Union rate in aid would be leviable in any one of them, not exceeding 2*s.*, the names of those Unions being Ballina, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Clifden, Galway, Glenties, Kenmare and Westport?

I am not certain that in one Electoral Division in Galway a rate in aid might not be raised.

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7232. Does your doubt extend beyond that case?
It does not.

7233. Will you have the goodness to turn to page 10, and look at the further list of 21 Unions which is there?
Ballina, Ballinrobe, Bantry, Cahirciveen, Carrick-on-Shannon, Castlebar, Castlerea, Clifden, Ennistymon, Galway, Glenties, Gort, Kenmare, Kilrush, Mohill, Roscommon, Scariff, Sligo, Swineford, Tuam and Westport.

7234. Are there many of those, do you think, that would bear a uniform Union rate?
No; there are not many such Electoral Divisions.

7235. There may be some?
It is possible that there may be some.

7236. Taking it altogether, do you think that any amount of Union rating could be obtained with respect to the large area and enormous population represented by that Table, which would be an adequate relief for the difference between the estimated expense from the present time to harvest, and the amount of rates that can be collected?
No.

7237. You have no doubt upon the subject?
Decidedly not.

7238. In those papers which are before you, it is stated that, in addition to those Unions which are enumerated, there are 10 other Unions to which you referred in a former examination, and which you stated, though not absolutely destitute, were approaching destitution, but might struggle on; what effect do you think would be produced on those Unions by the imposition of a Union rate in aid of 2*s*. upon them?
It would discourage and dishearten the rate-payers in the Electoral Divisions which are at present solvent.

7239. And as their condition, though solvent, is approaching the verge of insolvency, is it not your judgment that an increased tax of 2*s*. in the pound, namely, 10 per cent., would create absolute insolvency in several cases that are now approaching to insolvency?
It would be likely to do so in some instances.

7240. So far as it had that operation, would it not at once narrow the means of raising rates, and increase the claim arising out of destitution?
To that extent.

7241. Taking the national character of Ireland, is there any characteristic in it to which you would trace a peculiar difficulty in administering the laws for the relief of the poor with safety?
The cunning of the lower orders in hiding their resources is one difficulty.

7242. Is there a want of self-reliance and self-dependence amongst the Irish as contrasted with the English?
Among certain inhabitants of certain parts of Ireland; but there is as great a difference between different parts of Ireland as between Ireland and England.

7243. In relation to those districts which are now peculiarly the subject of examination, namely, those which are distressed, and, comparing the character of the people with the character of the people of this country, is there more or less of self-reliance and disposition to independent exertion in the one country than in the other?
There is no doubt that there is less disposition to self-reliance in the distressed districts of Ireland.

7244. If the law enables the inhabitants of an Electoral Division to rely, in default of their own means, upon the Union, and the Union to rely upon any external aid as a permanent law, what effect will that produce upon the characteristic of the people to which I have adverted?
That characteristic of the people would be an impediment in the good working of the law.

7245. Supposing

7245. Supposing the power of raising a rate in aid, if it were practicable, to arise after a 5*s.* maximum has been already attained; can you conceive cases where the rate was high as approaching 4*s.* or 4*s.* 6*d.*, in which it might be a temptation to the inhabitants to pass the maximum in order to claim the rate in aid?

They would have to tax themselves to that amount; I should not be very much afraid of their wishing to expend as much as 5*s.* in order to get the remainder, because they would have to tax themselves for the 5*s.*

7246. Are the parties who administer this law in all cases the parties who pay the rate?

No.

7247. Is not the tendency of the present law, supposing it unchanged, to diminish the number of persons daily who pay the rate, and to cast the rate upon one class, whilst its administration rests upon another?

It is, in the distressed districts.

7248. Then would not the tendency of all this be to make it profitable to a certain class to seek for a rate in aid—the condition, namely, the increase of local taxation, being borne by others and not by themselves?

It would to a certain extent.

7249. Is not that an increasing extent?

It may be.

7250. Is not the effect of the present law to cast more and more the burden upon the owners of land rather than upon the occupiers?

In the distressed districts.

7251. Should you place the same reliance upon a just, economical and beneficial administration of the Poor Law in England if the rating of the occupiers were limited in the same way in which it is in Ireland; should you think that an expedient change of the law?

I think it might have been abstractedly advisable, when the law was introduced into Ireland, to have put the whole upon the occupier; but I am not at all prepared to recommend any alteration of the law in Ireland.

7252. Should you be prepared to recommend any change of the law in England which would make the incident of the tax upon the occupier and the owner the same in England as in Ireland?

No, I would not.

7253. What would be the consequence of that change, in your judgment, in relation to the administration of the Poor Law of England?

To a certain extent, elected Guardians would be less careful in the administration of relief. At the same time, the tendency would be to cause *ex officio* Guardians to be more particular in looking after the administration of relief.

7254. Would you feel the same confidence in the administration of the Poor Law of England if the state of the law were such as it is in Ireland?

No, not on the whole; I prefer the law as it is in England.

7255. You have stated that upon the first introduction of the law into Ireland you think it would have been better to have thrown the whole payment of the rates upon the occupier?

That is my opinion, speaking abstractedly. At the same time I am sensible that the course actually adopted may, to a certain extent, have smoothed the introduction of the law. Still I think it on the whole abstractedly a better law of rating, for Poor Law purposes, that the entire amount should be paid by the occupiers.

7256. Do you think that, taking into consideration all the circumstances of Ireland, the number of absentee landlords, and the poverty generally of the tenants, it would not have very materially increased the difficulties of bringing the law into practical operation if the whole of the rate had been thrown upon the occupier?

I can very well believe that it was so, and I do not intend to suggest a doubt

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whether the Government of the day decided wisely in reference to the circumstances then existing in Ireland.

7257. You are understood to have given it as your decided opinion, that whatever may have been your view with respect to the introduction of the law originally, you think that it would be highly inexpedient to attempt to change it in that respect now?

Yes; I am merely speaking of what I think would abstractedly, without reference to any of the circumstances of the country, have been expedient when the law was originally introduced.

7258. Do not the same circumstances, with regard to absentee landlords and the poverty of rate-payers, exist in many townships and parishes in England?

Yes.

7259. And in those places where they do exist, is there any more difficulty found?

I think, perhaps, the absenteeism does not exist to the same extent in England.

7260. Nor the poverty?

Nor the poverty.

7261. But where these circumstances do exist, is there any difficulty whatsoever in the operation of the Poor Law, or does not the Poor Law act just as well in those districts as in the districts where there are resident landlords?

My impression is, that the law would work better where there are resident landlords.

7262. You have stated to us that you consider that one of the principal objections to the proposal of a Union rate in aid would be the natural discontent excited in those parts of the Union upon which the rate was imposed for the assistance of the remainder of that Union?

Yes.

7263. Setting apart that question of discontent altogether, do you conceive that, supposing a rate in aid were imposed according to that scheme, there are Unions in which it would be effectual for the remedy of the present financial difficulties of those Unions?

There may be some Unions in which it would be an effectual remedy.

7264. Do you conceive that it would prove a permanent remedy, or that it would merely afford funds for the momentary exigencies of the Union?

It might prove a permanent remedy in some Unions; the circumstances of different Unions vary so much that it is difficult to make a correct general statement on the subject.

7265. Turning your attention to those distressed Unions in the West of Ireland, of which you have been speaking in your previous evidence, should you be prepared to say whether there are any of those Unions in which such a plan would prove an effectual remedy for the difficulties of those Unions?

No, none of those.

7266. All those Unions, therefore, according to your view, would require some extraneous aid?

Decidedly.

7267. Not merely the Electoral Divisions, but the Unions themselves?

Yes.

7268. Would your objections to levying any rate in aid from Unions, for the relief of the Electoral Districts, be diminished by its being only a temporary expedient, and not a permanent law?

To the extent between what is temporary and permanent, my objections would be diminished.

7269. In making that comparison, have you any security of its temporary nature?

No, I am not aware of any security.

7270. In those cases in which certain Electoral Divisions of a Union are absolutely insolvent, and unable to meet their expenses, and the other portions of the Union

Union are in such a condition that they might be, if required, capable of assisting those insolvent portions, what is your view of the proper course to be pursued with respect to meeting the difficulties arising in such cases?

I would have maximum poor-rates in every Electoral Division in Ireland, fix that maximum high, and then help the Electoral Division *ab extra*, when that maximum was passed.

7271. Without reference to other portions of the Union?

Yes; that is, on the whole, my opinion; but the subject is involved in great difficulties.

7272. Upon what basis do you think that such a maximum could be determined; how would you proceed to fix such a maximum, in reference to the different divisions of the country to which you would apply it; would you apply one uniform maximum to all, or would you give a varying maximum according to the circumstances?

I would have one maximum for all, and any proposition for a maximum would be merely, in my own mind, a temporary remedy for the very peculiar state of things in the West of Ireland, namely, that farmers are deterred by the indefiniteness of the poor-rates from investing their capital in land. It appears to me that this is a very crying evil, and that it is absolutely necessary to devise some measure for remedying it; and although there are many objections abstractedly to a maximum, it appears to me that there are greater objections against permitting the present state of things to continue in those districts; it is essential to give farmers a feeling of security as to the amount of rates which shall be demanded from them.

7273. Would you put the same maximum upon Glenties and Westport as you would upon Rathdown and Dunshaughlin and Celbridge?

Yes.

7274. You would propose one general maximum over the whole country?

Yes; if a maximum were imposed, I should contemplate that assistance would be required in comparatively few Electoral Divisions over Ireland.

7275. Upon what principle would you fix the maximum?

I am not certain that I understand the precise meaning which is intended in the question to be given to the expression "principle."

7276. Upon what principle would you ascertain the proper maximum to be fixed, whether at 5*s.*, 3*s.*, 8*s.*, or what?

The precise limit must be more or less arbitrary if you fix a maximum.

7277. Still, if it is once fixed, the person fixing it must have some principle on which he fixes it?

In fixing the precise limit, it would be proper to bear in mind various considerations; such, for example, as the amount of rates which have been made and collected in England in times of distress.

7278. In England, of course, the rates go in proportion to the exigencies of the administration of the Poor Laws, according to the exigencies and the poverty of the district; no principle can be derived from the amount of poor-rates collected in England?

The bearing of the poor-rates in England is this: supposing that a maximum poor-rate was fixed in the Electoral Divisions of Ireland, and assistance were afterwards given from the Imperial funds, there would be the strongest possible objection to allow the maximum to be of such an amount as has often been passed in parishes in England in periods of distress.

7279. You think that no maximum would be just in Ireland which was not equal to the amount of rates paid in the greatest moments of distress in England?

I do not say precisely that no such rate would be just; but in fixing the precise limit of the maximum, it is a matter of policy that you should bear in mind the amount paid in English parishes in times of distress.

7280. You have stated that you would recommend a high maximum?

Yes.

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7281. Are you inclined to think that 7*s.* would be a sufficiently high maximum?

Yes, 7*s.* would be my own proposition; but I am not strongly wedded to that particular limit.

7282. Assuming that the maximum, according to your proposal, should be a high maximum, are you prepared to assume that the maximum would be an equal maximum upon parts of the country under different conditions?

Yes; because it is a maximum of poundage in proportion to valuation.

7283. Take cases like those of Unions in the East and the West of Ireland, where the valuations have been made some years back: the value of property in the East of Ireland remains not very much altered from what it was at the time of the valuation; in the West of Ireland, according to evidence laid before this Committee, the value of property has been enormously reduced by the occurrences of late years; would not a certain rate imposed upon the valuation of those two different parts of Ireland give you a very different maximum under the two varying circumstances?

Yes; but the proper remedy would be to alter the valuations.

7284. Have you the means of altering the valuations to serve for this emergency?

No, not before next harvest.

7285. We are talking now of proposals in order to meet the difficulties actually existing and described by yourself in your previous evidence in certain parts of Ireland?

My remedy did not at all apply to the state of the country previously to the next harvest.

7286. But have you any reason to believe that even after the next harvest the condition of that part of the country will be so altered as to enable you to dispense with any of that extraneous aid which you now state to be absolutely indispensable to so many of these Unions?

No; some assistance will be required, but the extent of the assistance will depend upon the harvest.

7287. You are understood to recommend that extraneous aid should only come into operation after having fixed the maximum of rating in those Unions?

Yes, that the embodying in a general law the principle of such assistance should be simultaneous with the imposition of a maximum.

7288. Even after the next harvest, have you any reason to suppose that the circumstances of those Unions will be so altered as to enable them to dispense with such extraneous assistance?

Supposing the debts of the Western Unions were discharged, and that the law respecting the maximum were considered to take effect for the year succeeding the 29th of September next, under such circumstances I consider that the law of the maximum of rate in the Electoral Divisions of those distressed Unions could work even with the present valuation.

7289. Do you think that it would be fair to impose the same maximum upon those distressed parts of Ireland where the value of property is altered, as has been already observed, which would be imposed upon the North and East of Ireland, where the value of property remains very much the same as before?

I regard the maximum in reference to the North and East of Ireland as merely nominal; I do not contemplate that any Union or any Electoral Division in the North and East of Ireland would receive assistance; and, therefore, in fixing that maximum, you should fix it with reference merely to the condition of these Western Unions.

7290. Have you ever thought at what rate you would fix the maximum?

I have stated 7*s.* in the pound.

7291. Previously to a rate of 2*s.* in the pound?

No; a maximum of 7*s.* in the pound in every Electoral Division.

7292. Before

7292. Before any aid was given whatsoever from any quarter?
Yes; so that a farmer, when he came to take a farm, would have the security that under no circumstances would he have to pay for poor-rates more than 7 *s.* in the pound.

7293. Are we to understand that you consider it a necessary preliminary to any such plan as that which you propose that all the debts of these Unions should be cleared off?
I could not say it is a necessary preliminary, but it is a desirable preliminary, I think if you gave the Western Unions a fair start from next harvest with the law of a maximum, the assistance required would be comparatively very small afterwards if there were a good harvest.

7294. In fact, the maximum is absolutely nugatory, unless the previous debts are got over?
I do not adopt the expression "absolutely nugatory;" the system would scarcely have a fair trial unless the debts were paid off, or considerably diminished in some Unions.

7295. Do you think it would be preferable to lay down, that no relief should be given to any distressed Electoral Districts till they had raised a rate of 7 *s.* in the pound, instead of authorizing a rate in aid of 2 *s.* in the pound, to be raised upon the better circumstanced Electoral District for the relief of the more distressed one?
I would prefer the 7 *s.* on the whole.

7296. Are the Committee to understand that you would require the maximum to be levied or struck?
Levied.

7297. In the distressed Unions, would it not in most cases be necessary to strike nearly double the amount in order to levy the 7 *s.* rate?
No; when I say "levy," I mean that due exertions should be made to collect the rate from all parties; I do not mean that any individual is to pay more than 7 *s.* in the pound.

7298. Who is to judge of due exertions having been made?
In a case where any such assistance was given, it would be proper to have the management in the hands of Vice-Guardians, and to have an Inspector there also; and if you had a certificate from the Inspector that every exertion had been made to collect the rates, you might, before the whole sum had been actually collected from every individual there, advance money to assist them.

7299. Would you understand, by every exertion being made, anything short of the exhaustion of the property to the extent of the rate?
I would have the property exhausted to the extent of a rate of 7 *s.*

7300. Will you have the goodness to tell us what extent in these distressed districts has been levied in the course of the last year; take the Unions of Ballina, Westport and Clifden, as examples?
It varies in different Unions; in Gort Union, they levied 8 *s.* in the year.

7301. Will you have the goodness to refer to Ballina, Westport and Clifden?
There is no doubt that, in many of the Electoral Divisions of those Unions, the rates made were not higher than 3 *s.* in the year.

7302. Have exertions been made that were adequate?
Yes; but through consideration to those Unions, an additional rate was not struck in them.

7303. What would have been the effect of striking an additional rate; would the effect have been to make those who had been previously insolvent to the first rate pay that rate; or to make those who had been solvent, and had already paid their rate, pay twice over?
To a certain extent, it might have been that also; but the rates generally in Ireland, speaking in the long run, have been collected without very large arrears; I consider that the rates have been collected pretty closely.

7304. Will you allow me to call your attention to this recital in one of the official Reports from Innistymon: "Assuming that a second rate must be struck as soon as the portion of the first collected is exhausted, such second rate can only

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only be enforced from a minority of the rate-payers, from those whose circumstances enabled them to bear up against the repeated demand. The alarm and discontent of persons of this latter class are general; even a resort to this principle of enforcing payment upon a limited number of rate-payers, decreasing with each succeeding rate, will not produce more than 15,000*l.*" Then it goes on. And from Kilrush it is stated, that "there would be a hopelessness of obtaining under a third rate what could not be levied in the two former, and what would fall exclusively on the proprietors and lessors, who would thus be required to pay three rates where the generality of rate-payers had not paid any." Supposing a maximum of 7*s.*, would not they endeavour to enforce the maximum 7*s.* rate to the payment of more than one, or possibly two, rates on the part of some, whilst the others paid none at all?

No; according to my supposition, each individual would only pay 7*s.* for his own holding. Supposing others were in arrears, still it would not throw more than 7*s.* on those who paid.

7305. But would it not throw the whole maintenance of the poor, up to that amount of maximum, upon those who were enabled to pay?

Yes.

7306. And each successive rate would diminish the number of rate-payers, and increase the liability, subject to that maximum of those who had to pay?

It might have that tendency; but at the same time this is merely one mode suggested of dealing with the difficulty, which remains a difficulty, whatever you do. It is a mere balance, as it seems to me, of evils; it cannot be doubted for a moment, that it is a great misfortune to a district to have to pay such a rate as one of 7*s.* in the pound. The point, however, for consideration is, how are you to deal with a district where the pauperism is so great as to require a rate of that amount.

7307. The difficulty to which you allude is the non-cultivation of the land?

Yes.

7308. The diminution of produce for human food?

Yes.

7309. Of produce for the payment of the rate, the increased destitution of the people, and the want of employment?

Yes.

7310. If all those circumstances existed, and were shown to exist in the distressed districts, more especially those of Clifden, Westport, Castlebar, Erris, Gort, Carrick-on-Shannon, and even some of the improved districts in Leinster, such as Longford and Granard, and in Munster, and in those cases nothing approaching a 7*s.* rate has been raised; do you think that the imposition of a maximum, coupled with the exhaustion of the land up to that maximum, would encourage the cultivation of land?

In the West it seems to me that it would encourage the cultivation of the land. Take Clifden Union: supposing Clifden Union bound to maintain its own poor, it would have had last year to pay upon the average 20*s.* in the pound, if such a thing were possible; and I conceive that to any farmer who wished to take land in Clifden Union (which includes Connemara), it would be a very material point to be able to assure him positively, under no circumstances will you have to pay more than 7*s.* in the pound.

7311. How much was the charge upon Clifden Union in the last year?

The sum imposed was much less; but I am speaking of the expenses.

7312. Will you have the goodness to tell us how much has been the poundage collected in Clifden?

Two shillings and seven-pence halfpenny.

7313. The collection not having exceeded 2*s.* 7½*d.*, and yet the rated value of the unoccupied lands in Clifden being 9,449*l.* a year, out of a valuation of 19,000*l.* a year, how do you think that that state of things would have been mended by a maximum rate?

I believe that there has been great alarm in Clifden Union; and on account of the great pauperism, farmers were unwilling to take farms there. I do not think

think they would look merely to the amount of rate actually made, but to the amount of pauperism, and the possible expenses under the present law. I have had it frequently stated to me, in regard to Ballina Union, that the rate-payers did not at all complain of a rate of 3*s.* in the pound—that they thought it a very fair and equitable rate in the present circumstances of the country; but what they complained of was the extreme indefiniteness of the taxation; they did not know what they might have to pay in order to maintain the destitution existing in the Union.

7314. But is the state of Ballina such as to give rise to no complaint under existing circumstances?
There may be complaints, but it has frequently been stated to me that the rate-payer generally paid very willingly 3*s.* in the pound.

7315. Do you think it would be any great relief to the people of the Ballina Union to be told that they could not be taxed beyond 7*s.* in the pound?
I think that if farmers had the security that they would not be taxed beyond 7*s.* in the pound, they would be more likely to take land in Ballina Union than under the present law.

7316. What was the amount of the poundage last year in Ballina?
Two shillings and three-halfpence.

7317. That is the amount collected?
Yes.

7318. Your attention is called to this report: "The striking of a new rate would extinguish the little hope which is still to be found." In the opinion of the party writing, "The few landlords who are giving employment would come to a stand-still. By the time a new rate would be available, the poor would have ceased to exist. No person will purchase property or invest capital so long as there is a prospect of rates being levied for the actual requirements of the Union. I very much doubt whether the present real value of the Union, if exclusively devoted to the poor, would prove sufficient for the next few years." That being the state of things under a rating which you have described, as being likely to be submitted to at 3*s.*, how do you think that that state of things would be improved if there were a liability to a rating to the extent of 7*s.*?
It appears to me that in that last extract it is stated that what occasioned alarm was the requirements of the Union; and the maximum of poor-rates would just meet that case.

7319. Will you have the goodness to compare the case which is contemplated here; namely, the striking of a new rate with a rate of which the maximum was 7*s.*, and of which the condition of obtaining external aid was having contributed to the full extent of 7*s.*, at least to the exhaustion of the property?
With regard to 7*s.*, I would refer the possibility of collecting a rate of that sort to the example of the Gort Union; in one year, the rate-payers of that Union have had to pay 7*s.* in the pound. Gort has suffered very much from the failures in the potato crop. A rate of 8*s.* in the pound is very heavy; and I was extremely sorry that in any Electoral Division so large a rate was required; still the rate was collected up to a certain point; and then, as I said before, if you have any maximum, you must fix it a little with reference to what is paid in England in periods of great distress.

7320. Is not the Report with respect to the Gort Union on the 23d of January this, that so large an amount of arrears of rate appears against many tenants that scarcely any person will be found to cultivate the land, lest the entire crops should be taken for rate and arrears: that was under a rate of how much?
On the whole of one year, rates were made to the amount of 8*s.* in the pound.

7321. Then it appears that considerable arrears remained due, and that under the operation of that rate which had been so enforced, the cultivation of the land had ceased?
Yes; it is a very disastrous state of things, but it is a mere balance of evils.

7322. Would not a farmer taking land in any of these districts, provided a maximum rate of 7*s.* in the pound was fixed, make it a matter of arrangement

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in his rent, calculating always a diminution of what the rent otherwise would have been to the amount of 7 *s.* annually?

He would; that is the very object of a maximum.

7323. Then, as far as the farmer was concerned, the maximum rate of 7 *s.* would be a great inducement for him to take the land?

Yes.

7324. Knowing that at any rate he could not suffer by that maximum being collected, and would not suffer if ever it did not reach the maximum?

Yes.

7325. He would also know that if he paid his rate he would deduct one-half of it for the landlord, so that it would only amount to a 3 *s.* 6 *d.* rate upon him?

Yes.

7326. If that were the case, would not the effect of this maximum rate be a diminution of the value of property, as far as the landlord was concerned, to the amount of 7 *s.* in the pound?

Yes.

7327. You stated, that you would recommend 7 *s.* in the pound to be the maximum; it is taken for granted that that 7 *s.* in the pound is upon the present valuation of the different Unions in Ireland?

Yes.

7328. Are you not aware that, owing to the great depreciation of the value of agricultural produce of all kinds, the valuation of all the different Unions in Ireland far exceeds their real and true value, and that if there were to be a new valuation made to-morrow of all the lands and the rateable property in Ireland, it would be considerably less than the value which is now put upon them?

That would be the case in the distressed Unions.

7329. Is it your opinion, that in most of the other Unions in Ireland that would not also be the case?

I am not able to give a positive general opinion upon that; in the distressed Unions it is so.

7330. Are you not aware that the value of agricultural produce has fallen; that at the time when the valuation was made, corn and cattle, and every other agricultural produce fetched a much higher price than it now does?

It did.

7331. If that be the case, the natural inference is, that the land which depends always upon the value of its produce must be now worth much less than it was at the time when the valuation was made?

The original valuations are supposed to have been under the letting value.

7332. Still the result would be, that a nominal rate of 7 *s.* would be a virtual rate of about 14 *s.*?

No; that would depend upon the part of the country.

7333. The question refers to the distressed Unions: if a depreciation has taken place in the value of the produce of the soil, there must be some variation in the value of the land; and so, in proportion, will not that rate of 7 *s.* in the pound be a considerably larger sum than it would actually appear to be, according to the valuation now put upon the land?

It would be higher, to the extent to which the present valuation is higher than the real letting value.

7334. It appears, by a Return before us, that the valuation put upon the Ennis Union two years ago was 101,000 *l.* a year, and that it is stated, upon the authority of Colonel Jackson and Mr. Hill, the County Surveyor, two men eminently qualified to speak upon the subject, that it is depreciated to 70,000 *l.* a year now; what would be the effect of a 7 *s.* maximum under those varying circumstances?

There is no doubt that if, since that valuation was made, there has been a depreciation from 101,000 *l.* to 70,000 *l.*, to that extent the rate of 7 *s.* in the pound now would really be greater than what it would have been then, about 30 per cent.

7335. And,

7335. And, therefore, to give the security of a 7*s.* maximum to a Union where such alteration in the value of property had not taken place, and to give it to a case like that which has just been described, would be a process of a very different effect in the two cases?

Yes; but still I would meet that by an alteration in the valuation.

7336. Then, finally, we must understand, that in any proposal which you have to offer to the Committee upon this part of the subject, two necessary preliminaries are in your contemplation: first of all, a new valuation, and, in the next place, an entire clearance, or nearly an entire clearance, of all the existing debts in the Union?

I would not say a necessary preliminary.

7337. To make it workable?

Yes; I will not say a necessary preliminary; it appears to me advisable that the debts should be paid.

7338. Passing from a Union rate, and assuming bankruptcy or inadequate means of providing relief on the part of certain Unions, as you have described the state of things to be in a part of Connaught, what would be your judgment on the subject of meeting that destitution by one fixed poundage-rate, leviable upon the whole of that part of the United Kingdom called Ireland?

It would raise great discontent in many parts of Ireland.

7339. Do you anticipate such discontent in those parts of Ireland where the Poor Law may, in your judgment, at present, be the most efficient and the best administered?

Yes; those parts which are now entirely free from discontent, in reference to the Poor Law, where the law is working admirably, would be the parts where the strongest indignation would be excited against the proposed law, and where we should find the greatest difficulties.

7340. What effect do you think that feeling would have upon the administration of the existing Poor Law in those parts of Ireland where it is now efficiently administered?

It would embarrass the administration of the Poor Law in such parts.

7341. Is it, then, your opinion that it would not only lead to difficulties in the levy of the extra rate itself, but that it would also impose difficulties upon that portion of the rate which has hitherto been cheerfully paid and honestly and efficiently appropriated?

I think so.

7342. What effect would it have, do you think, upon the present Boards of Guardians; are there any Vice-Guardians appointed in those parts of Ireland, referring to the North and the West parts of Ireland?

In very few Unions; in one or two only.

7343. Generally speaking, the law is administered by parties having local interest?

Yes.

7344. Do you view the substitution of Vice-Guardians for local Guardians as being an inconvenience resulting from the necessity of the case, and do you prefer the administration by local Guardians when you can obtain it?

I prefer, as a whole, the administration of the Poor Law by Boards of Guardians.

7345. By intelligent Boards of Guardians?

By intelligent Boards of Guardians.

7346. Do you think that the collection of a national rate in those parts of Ireland would produce any effect with respect to the present administration of the law by the local Guardians?

It is possible that it might.

7347. So far as that possibility was resolved into an existing fact, it would be an inconvenience, in your judgment?

It would.

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7348. Even in those more prosperous parts of Ireland, are there not in some of the more mountainous and remote districts within them occasional difficulties in the collection of rates?
I am not aware of such difficulties, but it is possible they may have existed.

7349. If the two rates were mixed up together, and, above all, if the general rate to which, as you have described, a local objection might be felt were made a first and preferable charge upon the poor-rate collected, what effect do you think that would produce upon the collection of the rate?
It would materially injure the collection of the rate; but, as I understand the proposal for a national rate, half of every shilling collected would go to a separate account for the rate in aid.

7350. Would not that interpose a difficulty to the collection of the whole of the shilling?
I have no doubt that in some Unions they would make considerable difficulty in paying their rates at all on account of that appropriation of half of the rates up to a certain point.

7351. Do you think that it would have the effect of so discouraging the Guardians, where the elected Guardians are still in use, that they might be induced to throw up their office, and refuse to act, and thereby render it necessary to appoint Vice-Guardians in districts which are now governed by elected Guardians?
That is very possible; but a great deal would depend upon the tone that might be taken by gentlemen of authority in the North, if the Act were passed.

7352. Supposing that the scheme for a general national rate in alleviation of distress were carried into effect, do you think that it would be possible, consistently with the principles which you have already laid down, to collect that national rate within the distressed districts themselves that were to be the subject of it?
In the distressed Unions, as in every other Union, the way in which it would work would be this: out of every shilling, one sixpence would go to the rate in aid until the rate in aid was collected. The effect of that in the distressed Unions would be just to lay upon them, in the first instance, an additional burden of 6*d.* in the pound.

7353. But if the condition of obtaining this relief was a previous exhaustion of all their local means, how is it possible that the additional rate could be collected without a further diminution of their local means to the extent of that taxation?
It could not be done.

7354. It could not be arithmetically done?
No.

7355. What was the amount levied in Connaught last year?
£.182,759 for the year ended September 1848, which was on the whole a rate of 2*s.* 7*d.* in the pound.

7356. Upon the valuation?
Yes.

7357. The calculated amount of the two and a half per cent. upon the valuation would be 34,777*l.*; supposing the proportions of that to be collected in the distressed districts, would it not be practically diminishing the means of removing that distress, at the same time that the levy of the rate was made upon the assumption of increasing those means?
It would; and in a very distressed Union it would almost involve an absurdity to collect a rate of 6*d.* in the pound as a rate in aid. Take the case of Ballina Union, for example: it would be a practical absurdity to raise in Ballina Union a rate of 6*d.* in the pound in aid of the distressed Unions in Ireland.

7358. Suppose that, in order to induce Parliament to sanction a rate in aid of 6*d.* in the pound, an estimate was made of the amount which would be derived from it; and, it being intended for the relief of the distressed portions of Ireland, which comprise almost all Connaught, that there was a calculation made that Connaught itself would, for that 6*d.* rate in aid, afford 34,777*l.*; would not that be a delusion upon Parliament?

No.

No. I have no doubt that, if the Rate in Aid Bill is passed, you will get 34,000*l.* from Connaught in the long run. I do not see how it is possible for you not to get it, if the poor-rates are paid at all. From every shilling that is paid by any rate-payer, one sixpence will go to an account called the Rate in Aid Account.

7359. In diminution of the local funds?

Yes; until 6*d.* in the pound is actually paid, half of every shilling paid goes to that account, so that the money will be raised.

7360. You stated a short time ago that the farmers in these distressed districts were to understand that they were not to pay more than 7*s.* in the pound; that that was to be the maximum; do you calculate that this rate in aid of 6*d.* should exceed that, or form part of it?

I am not favourable to a rate in aid.

7361. But when you stated that 7*s.* should be the maximum, did you calculate that there should be the addition of 6*d.*, or that the 6*d.* should be deducted from that 7*s.*?

I did not contemplate the question of 6*d.* in the pound one way or the other, with reference to the maximum.

7362. Supposing a 6*d.* rate in aid was levied upon the kingdom at large, do you understand that that 6*d.* should be levied in Connaught, which you stated would be well paid in Connaught, over and above the 7*s.*, or out of the 7*s.*?

It is a hypothetical question; it supposes, in the first place, that a maximum of 7*s.* in the pound is adopted; and, secondly, that the Rate in Aid Bill is passed into a law.

7363. You stated that you considered that there ought to be a maximum, and that that maximum should be 7*s.* in the pound, and that the farmer should understand that he should have no claim upon him beyond that; is he to pay this 6*d.* in the pound over and above that?

I have not intended to express any opinion on the conjoint working of the Rate in Aid Bill and of the maximum.

7364. Do you think he could possibly pay it?

It would be difficult for him to pay 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound.

7365. When you recommended a maximum as a contingent matter of legislation, did you mean that the maximum was to include the whole of the rates for which the parties would be liable?

Yes.

7366. The recommendation of the 7*s.* maximum was quite independent of the rate in aid?

Yes.

7367. You have stated to the Committee that your view of the necessities of the case would be that a maximum of 7*s.* should be fixed for the utmost amount of rate to be exacted. Supposing there to be cases, as there must be, in which the exigencies of the Union would exceed the sum to be raised by a rate of 7*s.* in the pound; from whence do you conceive that that extraneous aid should be derived?

From the State.

7368. But supposing it to be afforded by a general rate in aid over Ireland, do you conceive that Connaught, or those districts which should be required to pay the 7*s.* rate, could contribute to that 6*d.* rate in aid?

As far as a 6*d.* rate in aid goes, you would get it from Connaught; they could contribute to the 6*d.* rate in aid in the first instance.

7369. Then if you took the 6*d.* rate in aid away from their capital, would it not cause a greater diminution as to the means of support which they would require?

There is no doubt it would be a heavy additional tax upon Connaught. That is how I would regard it; but I do not say that the levying of it is impracticable.

7370. But if you take it away, will there be a larger amount to be added in order to supply its place?

It might have to be returned in a different form.

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7371. You have stated that, in your judgment, such extra aid ought to be afforded by the State. Will you state the grounds on which you have formed that opinion, and which induce you to prefer Imperial assistance under such a contingency to assistance as proposed by an Irish rate in aid?

I have given my evidence on that subject at length before the House of Commons. I believe that evidence has been communicated to your Lordships. I have nothing to add to what I have there stated.

7372. Do you consider the dependence, under circumstances of exigency upon extraneous aid, to be in itself an evil?

I do.

7373. And only justified by the severity of the pressure?

I do; a very great evil. And adverting either to a law of a maximum, or to assistance from the State, I regard both of them as in themselves evils.

7374. Limiting the question to the one, do you not consider that, in relation to the peculiarity of the Irish character, an expectation held out of extraneous aid is dangerous, and, to use words of high authority, that the mischief is done by the hope excited, much more than by the amount of relief that may be afforded?

I believe so, to a certain extent.

7375. Of the two, which do you think would be regarded more as an occasional interposition, limited to an extreme case, and justified only by the exigency, a national rate so called, imposed upon all Ireland, or an occasional assistance given by Parliamentary authority?

If in either case it was settled by law that some assistance was to be given from some quarter or other, it would not make much difference.

7376. Supposing it was not settled by law, but that the occasion was looked to and investigated, and dealt with as an exceptional case beyond the law, and without any general law; in which way do you think the operation would be least liable to the mischief and danger which have been suggested?

The exceptional assistance would be less liable to that danger.

7377. Take the cases which have arisen within your own observation, if not in your practical experience; are you aware of the case which occurred in the year 1839 when the Poor Law Commissioners resisted any application to Parliament for even the increase which would have been occasioned by out-door relief?

Yes.

7378. Do you consider that, in an exigency like that, if there had been the power by law of resorting to a rate in aid, it would have been more productive of mischief in Ireland than the possibility of obtaining from Parliament, upon the exigency, relief to meet the occasion?

It would in that year.

7379. You have stated that you conceive that whatever extraneous aid might be required, under the circumstances supposed, of the exigencies of Ireland exceeding the maximum which you propose to fix, that aid should come from the State; should you be prepared to recommend that all such cases should be provided for by the State, out of Imperial resources, without the imposition of any additional taxation upon Ireland?

It seems to me that the question should be fairly considered on its own merits, of whether Ireland pays a sufficient amount of taxation at present or not. I think that is a very proper question to enter into; it should be fully and fairly discussed by those who are competent to discuss it, having before them the Act of Union; bearing in mind the taxation on the two countries at that time, and taking into consideration all the various circumstances bearing on the finances of the two countries which have occurred since.

7380. You mean by that answer, then, to imply that you have not sufficiently examined that part of the subject to be able to give a definite opinion with respect to the sources from which that aid should come?

No.

7381. Do you think that the interests of Great Britain, separately considered, are considerably involved in the state of pauperism and destitution of Ireland, the physical condition?
Yes.

7382. Supposing the existing state of things to continue in Ireland, the exhaustion of means which is described on the part of the rate-payers, the increasing destitution on the part of the pauper population, and the diminution in many cases, the cessation in some, of the cultivation of the land; what effect do you think that that has a tendency to produce upon the immigration of the Irish paupers into England?
It tends to encourage the immigration of Irish paupers into England; and that is undoubtedly a disadvantage to the manufacturing districts, in this respect, that the habits and the standard of cleanliness of the inhabitants of the West, the distressed districts, are very much lower than the habits of the labouring population in England.

7383. Beyond the social effects which you have described, must it not have also an immediate effect upon the rate of wages, by introducing the competition of parties living on a lower scale?
Undoubtedly.

7384. Has it not had that effect in Manchester and Glasgow?
It has.

7385. Is not that a gain to the employer of labour?
It is, to a certain extent.

7386. You state, to a certain extent; is there not a limit beyond which it ceases to be a gain?
Yes.

7387. Do you consider that, practically speaking, the rate of wages in Ireland is lower than it is in England, comparing the payment of wages with the work done?
No; taking into consideration the quality of the work, I do not believe the rate of wages to be lower in Ireland.

7388. Is not the tendency of having a bulk of labour in a country, furnished by parties living extremely low, and occupying a lower social condition, rather to diminish the nominal amount of wages than to increase the efficiency of the work done, when the proportion of that low population passes a certain amount of the whole?
Yes, when it passes a certain amount.

7389. Is not this immigration of the Irish poor into this country wholly distinguishable from the occasional immigration of the Irish labourer into England for the purposes of harvest?
Yes.

7390. What is the difference of the effect, in your judgment, which it produces, say in Lincolnshire, where the Irish go to assist in gathering the harvest, and Glasgow and Manchester, where an Irish population goes to settle?
In the one case it is nearly an unmixed good, and in the other it is either a very mixed good or an evil.

7391. You have stated, as the great objection to the rate in aid, in your judgment, the discontent which it would excite in the non-distressed districts of Ireland; you do not consider that the existence of discontent on the part of those who had to make the payment would, in all cases, be a conclusive reason against exacting that payment?
No.

7392. You do not consider that the discontent on the part of tax-payers in the other parts of the United Kingdom would be a conclusive reason against the advance of funds for the relief of distress in Ireland?
No.

7393. You have talked of the effect of raising a rate in aid in Connaught; would there be any great practical hardship on Connaught in nominally raising

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the sum in any of the distressed districts, it being certain that a greater amount would be advanced to them?

No, there would be no great harm. There is, however, if I may be allowed to say so, something in the nature of a practical absurdity to take away 6*d.* in the pound with one hand, and to give 6*d.* in the pound with the other.

7394. That may apply to the mode of the operation?

Yes.

7395. Are we to understand that you are prepared to state whether in your judgment the levy of an income tax in Ireland would be a preferable mode to a rate in aid?

The question of an income tax scarcely falls within the province of the Poor Law administration. It would seem, however, that to assist these distressed Unions solely from an Irish income tax is open on principle to the same abstract objections as the assisting them merely from an Irish rate in aid. The great point seems to be, that if Ireland bears its fair share of taxation, there is no sufficient reason why, in order to relieve the distress in 21 or 31 Irish Unions, you should tax exclusively those Unions of the United Kingdom which happen to be in the island of Ireland.

7396. Assuming, for argument, that Ireland did not bear a fair amount of taxation, would you or would you not think an income tax preferable to a rate in aid as an equal mode of making Ireland contribute to the specific object?

I should prefer an income tax, supposing it was absolutely necessary to make an election between the two. Perhaps I may mention, that, in regard to an unpopular application of money when paid, there cannot be a more impolitic tax than a poor-rate levied by local Boards.

7397. You think that the rate in aid would be more unpopular than the income tax?

It would depend upon circumstances, in different parts of the country; it would be very difficult to give a distinct opinion upon that point. I have no doubt that amongst farmers, with an income under 150*l.* a year, the income tax would be very much more popular than the rate in aid.

7398. Not probably in the towns of Ireland?

No; in such towns it is probable that gentlemen who reside there, and whose income is far greater than the net annual value of their houses, would prefer a rate in aid.

7399. Would not an income tax, in fact, fall upon parties who now contribute nothing to the maintenance of the poor?

It would.

7400. And would it not also make those persons contribute who draw their resources from Ireland by means of having money laid out in Ireland, receiving interest on money, who may be perfectly able out of their income to afford that amount of money to the great relief of the land or occupiers of land?

It would have those advantages.

7401. You were understood to state that one of your objections to the rate in aid was its being leviable upon the same parties, at the same time, and under the same authority, as the ordinary rate, and that its imposition would throw into confusion the rate which is now satisfactorily collected. Would not that be met if the levy was by a separate authority, a separate system of taxation, and altogether distinguished from the other?

It would be better, in that point of view.

7402. Do you think that important?

That is important to the due administration of the Poor Laws.

7403. When you gave your answer with regard to the comparison of an income tax and a rate in aid, you seemed to consider the proposition of an income tax as intended as a substitute for a rate in aid, or as a means of relieving the poor?

Yes.

7404. Supposing that not to be the view, but that it were for the purpose of placing upon Ireland the same description of general taxation for the purposes of the

the State, so as to enable the State to make the grant instead of the country itself, would not your objection to the income tax be considerably removed?

It would be entirely removed if, on a fair consideration of the taxation of Ireland, and the terms upon which it was originally united, it were found that Ireland was under-taxed at present.

7405. Is it your opinion that Ireland does pay a full amount of taxation as compared with England?

I have not studied the subject sufficiently to give an opinion upon that point.

7406. You are aware that, in the course of the discussion of the proposal for a rate in aid, certain precedents have been quoted which are to be found both in England and in Scotland?

Yes.

7407. Will you be so good as to state to the Committee your view of those cases?

I have stated my view in the evidence before the Committee of the House of Commons with reference to the analogy of England, and I am willing to give my opinion on the analogy of Scotland.

7408. Will you be so good as to proceed?

As far as I understand the case of Scotland, at one period during the last century, viz., 1783, there was great distress in 16 counties of Scotland, and a special law was passed taxing those counties for the relief of able-bodied men, who had been reduced to indigence by the failure of the corn crop of the previous year.

7409. Imposing a rate in certain counties?

Yes.

7410. Specially imposed upon certain counties?

Yes. Now it strikes me that that is really not analogous to the proposition of a rate in aid in the present instance. At that period in Scotland, as at present, there was no law of relief to able-bodied men at all, so that that seems to me an essential distinction between the two cases. The Legislature then enacting a new temporary Poor Law, said, "We will make the support of the able-bodied poor a local burden, constituting counties the area of taxation for that purpose." To make that case really analogous to the present, there should have been subsequently a deficiency of the means of support in a particular county, and then all the other counties of Scotland should have been called upon to contribute to the support of the distressed locality.

7411. In the case cited of Scotland, were the funds raised in each county expended upon the poor within that county alone?

Yes.

7412. Was not the provision of the law this, that the sums were levied under the authority of Commissioners of Supply upon their respective counties, and the expenditure of those funds was vested in those Commissioners of Supply within their own jurisdiction exclusively?

Yes.

7413. And for their own purposes?

And for their own purposes, so that in fact it was merely a temporary introduction of a law for the relief of able-bodied men, making counties the area of taxation.

7414. In short, throwing the relief of the poor for the time upon a county-rate?

Yes.

7415. With a large area of taxation?

Yes.

7416. There being at that time in Scotland no other area except the county, and the machinery being that of the Commissioners of Supply to carry the taxation into effect?

Precisely so.

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7417. And there being at the time in Scotland a very small population ?
Yes.

7418. In fact, it was no rate in aid at all ?
It was no rate in aid.

7419. Do you think that the present limits of the Electoral Divisions in Ireland are with advantage capable of any alteration ?
I have given my evidence upon that point very fully before the House of Commons, and perhaps your Lordships will be so good as to accept that evidence as applicable to my present examination.

7420. Will you state generally your opinion with regard to it ?
I was on the whole in favour of adopting the recommendations of the Boundary Commissioners.

7421. The principles of them, not binding yourself to details ?
Yes.

7422. With respect to an alteration of Union Divisions, during the time of your administration you had occasion, had you not, in some instances, as Ballina and Dingle Unions for instance, to divide Unions ?
Yes.

7423. And to establish auxiliary Workhouses ?
Yes.

7424. Did the result satisfy you as to the expediency of that course ?
Yes; Dingle Union has been detached from Tralee Union; Ballina Union has not yet been actually divided.

7425. But practically it has; has it not
In a certain sense.

7426. It is under Vice-Guardians, and there is a Workhouse at Belmullet ?
There is a Workhouse at Belmullet, with a resident Vice-Guardian and a resident Inspector.

7427. With respect to that alteration, do you think, on the whole, that it is an economical one, with a view to the permanent well-being of the administration of the law ?
Yes, decidedly so, in regard to the permanent working of the law.

7428. Is that on the ground of a more efficient application of the Workhouse test ?
Yes, and also on other grounds, which I stated in my evidence before the House of Commons; such, for example, as the advantage of affording greater facilities to Guardians to attend their Boards.

7429. Would any possible advantage, in your contemplation, arise from a division of the larger Unions, unless there was a separate Workhouse assigned in each of the portions so divided ?
Very little advantage, in my opinion, would arise from such a division.

7430. Would there not be some disadvantages, in your opinion ?
Yes.

7431. In the event of the Workhouse being in one, would there not be the chance of a collision of opinion between the authorities, in the division which had no Workhouse and the division which had ?
Yes; I cannot seriously contemplate a system of dividing Unions, without establishing a new Workhouse for each new Union.

7432. Would not the cost of erecting new Workhouses and maintaining such large establishments be a very great bar to the subdivision of Unions ?
The expense is a very material point, certainly. I am rather speaking administratively of what would be advisable; it is entirely a question for the consideration of the Government and the House of Commons, whether they will advance the money.

7433. Supposing Workhouses are built, and the larger Unions divided, have you

you any doubt that, as a matter of economy in the administration of the Poor Law, upon the long run, that would be an economical arrangement?
I have no doubt whatever upon that point.

7434. Do you believe that the money expended in building the Workhouse would be eventually saved by an improved administration in the law?
In the long run.

7435. Have you any confidence in the possible safe administration of out-door relief in Ireland, without the practical application of a Workhouse test?
No.

7436. Is not the difficulty much greater in Ireland than it is in England, by reason of the low position in which the bulk of the population is placed, and which, without the restraint of a Workhouse, would render almost any out-door relief preferable to the state of uncertainty in which they are placed?
It is so.

7437. Do you consider that the application of the Workhouse test would be resorted to without great difficulty, after the alleviation obtained since the potato famine?
What has occurred since the famine may have tended to weaken the feeling of dislike to Workhouses in some individuals; but still, speaking generally, the Workhouse test is tolerably effective; and I am not prepared to say that all the distress of able-bodied men might not be properly met in Workhouses.

7438. Was it not properly met before the potato failure, in your judgment?
Yes, as far as able-bodied men were concerned.

7439. In your evidence on the last day, you stated that you regarded it as a mistake, to consider that out-door relief was introduced by the Extension Act?
Yes.

7440. In fact, out-door relief had, practically, been introduced by the Public Works Act and by the Relief Act?
Certainly.

7441. And the Extension Act was rather a limitation of what had previously existed, tending to its ultimate extinction?
Yes.

7442. In what way do you conceive that we can reach to that ultimate extinction?
On Poor Law principles?

7443. On Poor Law principles?
On Poor Law principles; the formation of new Unions and the construction of new Workhouses would tend very materially to that end.

7444. Independently of Poor Law principles, are there other appliances which your experience in Ireland, and the attention which you have given to the subject, would lead you to suggest as being remedies, not only for the existing pauperism, but for the prevention and check of pauperism?
There are various other remedies which might be suggested. I consider that Poor Law principles are by no means sufficient to meet this emergency. But I would rather decline entering into a discussion of such remedies; I do not think it precisely within my province; and I am anxious to make no suggestion involving the expenditure of public money, which might divert attention from the comparatively trifling sum with which it is possible for this country to spare itself the deep disgrace of permitting any of our miserable fellow-subjects in the distressed Unions to die of starvation. I wish to leave distinctly on record, that from the want of sufficient food many persons in those Unions are at the present moment dying or wasting away; and, at the same time, it is quite possible for this country to prevent the occurrence there of any death from starvation by the advance of a few hundred thousand pounds, say a small part of the expenses of the Caffre war. It appears to me, that if I confine myself merely to pointing

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out the duty of assisting those distressed Unions, and the small sum of money which is required for that purpose, it is better than if I were to go into a consideration of any general plans for the future.

7445. Without going into those plans; taking into account the evidence which you have before you, and the experience which you have acquired, supposing that the potato should not be restored as an article of profitable cultivation and of general food, how do you conceive that the case of Connaught will stand next year?

If there is another failure of the potato crop, and if no steps are taken to reassure farmers, and to limit the amount of rates, the state of Connaught will be just as bad as it is at present.

7446. Passing by the supposition of reassuring farmers, supposing the potato to cease as an article of general food and profitable culture, are there any considerable districts within your knowledge in which you have reason to apprehend that a grain food could be supplied adequately to the support of the population which has been bred and nurtured upon a potato food?

In those Western Unions, at present I am not prepared to say that, if adequate inducements were held out to intelligent farmers to settle there, they would find an excessive population of able-bodied men; there have been so many deaths in those districts, and so many have migrated or emigrated, that I am not certain that first-rate farmers with capital would find too many labourers in parts of the West, say in the county of Mayo.

7447. Supposing the case of the Union of Glenties, where, upon a valuation of 16,000*l.* a year, there is a population of 43,000 human beings who have been bred upon a potato food, can you contemplate the support of those individuals upon cereal produce?

No; in the case of Glenties Union, I do not; but I believe that even in Glenties Union a certain portion of the population have been in the habit of eating oatmeal more than in Mayo.

7448. Without referring to individual Unions, does it not appear practically, by the statistics which are furnished to your office, that there are particular districts in which a large congestion of population has occurred from accidental causes?

Yes.

7449. Mismanagement of estates or other causes, which population is entirely beyond the possible support within that district upon cereal food?

In reference to the present state of cultivation and agriculture, it seems so.

7450. You have visited Connaught yourself?

I have.

7451. Are there not districts which must have come under your observation, where from the infinite subdivision of land (take the Union of Ballinrobe, and the number of persons who are occupiers there under 4*l.* a year in value), it would appear utterly impossible that the population could be supported upon cereal food, placed within those districts?

That is my impression, in the present state of agriculture there.

7452. With a subdivision of land, such as exists, we will say, in that Union of Ballinrobe, do you think it possible that any really improved system of agriculture can be introduced with a rotation of crops, the raising of manure and the sustentation of cattle, so as to supply cereal food for that population?

I am not prepared to say that, if first-rate systems of agriculture were introduced, it might not be possible.

7453. Supposing those first-rate systems of agriculture were introduced, do you imagine that there would be any employment for this amount of population in the districts where it is so redundant?

It appears to me that there has been a good deal of migration from those districts latterly.

7454. Where do the people go to?

That is a difficult question to answer satisfactorily.

7455. Where

7455. Where do you think they go to?
Some go into England, and some emigrate to America.

7456. In those cases migration or emigration has been employed as a remedy?
Yes.

7457. If there were no emigration to America, do you think that there would be more migration to England?
Very much more.

7458. Then you think that the colonial emigration is a protection from that migration into England, which you have already stated to be an evil?
Undoubtedly.

7459. You have stated that, previously to the Extension Act, the limitation of relief to the Workhouse was sufficient for the able-bodied; should you think it, in any future remodelling of the law, desirable or necessary to allow out-door relief for other classes of the population?
I would not recommend an alteration of the law by which the Guardians have a discretionary power to grant out-door relief to the impotent poor, whatever might be my own individual views on the subject, in reference to the habits of the lower classes in many parts of Ireland. I doubt whether you would not find, practically, a great difficulty in enforcing a vagrant law, if the present discretionary power of Guardians respecting out-door relief to the impotent poor were taken away.

7460. Do you think that the vagrant law is enforced now?
I regard the present state of Ireland as exceptional. The vagrant law is very little enforced, except perhaps in some towns.

7461. Even there, has it not come within your knowledge that parties have preferred being committed to gaol to receiving relief in the Workhouse?
I have heard of such instances. I am bound to add, that in regard to the absolute suppression of vagrancy, I do not attach any very great importance to any vagrancy law. I am afraid that, even in a wealthy country, in a state of prosperity, with a stringent vagrant law, and with liberal charitable institutions, there is only one way of preventing the importunities of common beggars; viz., by ceasing to give to them.

7462. Is not that a change of habit, which it is very difficult to anticipate in the present state of feeling in Ireland?
Very difficult, though the old feeling of superstition as to the result of refusing assistance to beggars has been weakened very materially lately.

7463. Do not you think that it has been weakened very much by the cessation of the potato crop, which was the article employed?
Yes.

7464. Have you any reason to believe that that feeling has been very much weakened indeed in the north of Ireland?
Yes; I have heard so.

7465. Are you aware of the number of labourers required on 100 acres in the ordinary or best state of cultivation?
I think from eight to ten in heavy arable land under a first-rate system of cultivation.

7466. Are you alluding to Ireland?
No, to England; eight or ten. I speak from the statements of some of the best witnesses who gave evidence before the Settlement and Removal Committee two years ago. Mr. Huxtable, for example, who is a well-known first-rate scientific agriculturist, in Dorsetshire, stated that on his clay farm, he kept one man constantly employed for every 10 acres; and he added, that an equal number might be profitably employed on similar land through Dorsetshire. On a light hill farm, however, he only employed one man for every 14 or 15 acres I am aware that the ordinary proportion of agricultural labourers to 100 acres is considerably less in England than the proportion observed by Mr. Huxtable;

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but, then, it seems to be certain that there is much room for improvement in agriculture, even in England.

7467. On the question of the subdivision of Unions, would there not be a great difficulty in the more remote districts in finding a sufficient number of competent persons to act as Guardians?

There would be a certain difficulty, but not, I think, greater than exists now in Glenties Union, where the present Board of Guardians goes on tolerably well.

7468. For their first Board of Guardians, was not the Chairman a tinker?

I do not know.

7469. And were not several members of the Board of Guardians receiving relief?

This could not well have happened under the Poor Law. Abuses of this kind might have occurred under the Labour Rate Act, or the Temporary Relief Act, in a Union so poor as Glenties.

7470. But it does not follow that, because the number of Workhouses should be increased where this division took place in the existing Unions, the number of Electoral Divisions should increase?

No.

7471. Those Electoral Divisions now return their Guardians, and those Guardians would only attend one house instead of another?

True; but still, to a certain extent, the chance of superior men in a Board is diminished, the smaller the Board.

7472. Still the number of Guardians not being diminished, and those Unions returning Guardians now, the probability is that the same description of Guardians would be continued in a subdivision of the Unions?

Yes.

7473. If a comparison were made between the number of paupers relieved in Unions under Vice-Guardians and under Boards of Guardians respectively, and the number relieved in Unions under Vice-Guardians were found to be greater than in Unions under Boards of Guardians, with the same amount of population, would you deem it correct reasoning to infer from such a fact, that the management of Boards of Guardians was superior to the management of Vice-Guardians?

No; I think it would be very incorrect reasoning, and if the fallacy is pointed out, I have no doubt it will be seen at once. Vice-Guardians are generally appointed in Unions where there is some difficulty, usually where there is great distress, and where the management was not, on the whole, going on satisfactorily. To take them, therefore, as a standard of comparison with other Unions which were going on satisfactorily would involve a striking fallacy. It is just as if any one were to endeavour to prove that the climate of Madeira tended to produce consumption by comparing all the Europeans who were in the island of Madeira with an equal number of Europeans elsewhere, and showing that the proportional number of consumptive patients was greater amongst the Europeans of the island of Madeira. The real reason why there might be comparatively a greater number of consumptive patients in that island is, that such patients go there to be cured; they are not consumptive in consequence of the climate, but in spite of it. Again, to take the instance, say, of 100 individuals, who might die in one year, it would probably be found that the greater number of them had been attended by medical men; but it would be a fallacy to compare them with 100 persons still alive, of whom none or very few were attended by medical men during the same period, and thence to infer that the attendance of medical men was unfavourable to health. Again, to take an illustration from the Poor Laws. In the county of Donegal there are eight Unions; the average amount of expenses in these Unions was 2*s.* 3½*d.* in Ballyshannon; 2*s.* 5½*d.* in Donegal; 2*s.* 11¼*d.* in Dunfanaghy; 9*s.* 10¾*d.* in Glenties; 1*s.* 6*d.* in Inishowen; 1*s.* 11¾*d.* in Letterkenny; 2*s.* 1½*d.* in Milford; and 1*s.* 5*d.* in Stranorlar. Now, of those Unions there is one of which the expenses were especially greater than of any other, namely, Glenties, where the expenses were 9*s.* 10¾*d.* In looking at these Unions, it is found that Glenties, at present at least, is the only one which has

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an Inspector; and last year there was only one other which had an Inspector. Now it would be just as reasonable to infer from that, that the effect of an Inspector in Glenties Union was to increase its expenditure, as to draw the inference which has been above suggested from the expenses in Unions with Vice-Guardians. Or, to carry the point still further, you might take 40 Unions in which there are at present resident Inspectors, and compare them with other 40 Unions in which there are no such Inspectors. There cannot be the least doubt that in the former Unions the total expenditure is much greater than the latter; but it would be a palpable fallacy to infer that the presence of the Inspectors was the cause of that difference in the expenditure.

7474. In fact, the appointment of Vice-Guardians is the best remedy which you can provide; the system of mal-administration before having made it necessary to put an end to the existing system?

Yes; not always so much, perhaps, from any mal-administration, as that the distress to be coped with in a district was beyond the power of the Guardians, unless they devoted much greater time to their duties than is usual.

7475. Have not Vice-Guardians, in consequence of having no local knowledge or information, much more difficulty in resisting imposition than the elected Guardians?

I think they have, in reference to out-door relief; that supposing a Board of Guardians were honest, and did not permit themselves to be influenced by unworthy or indirect considerations, they ought to administer relief better than Vice-Guardians sent down there for a short time; but that advantage would cease after the Vice-Guardians had been there a certain period, and then the Vice-Guardians, at any rate, would have this advantage, that they would be devoting their whole time to those duties, while the Guardians would only give one day in the week. I have not the least doubt that if honest elected Guardians devoted every day in the week to the discharge of their duties, they would perform the duties better than Vice-Guardians.

7476. Do you contemplate, in Ireland, that any persons of the class either of the *ex officio* or the elected Guardians could be expected, or that it would be expedient, that they should so devote their time?

It would be entirely impracticable; it is as much as you can expect if they give one day in the week to those duties.

7477. Looking at Boards of Guardians as they have been constituted, would you think it expedient or safe to extend to any Union in Ireland relief not raised by local means, where Unions were administered by Guardians and not by Vice-Guardians?

I should not; I think that if any assistance were given from without, from the State particularly, it should, as a general rule, be administered by Vice-Guardians.

7478. Either from the State, or from any extraneous fund?

As a general principle, I should say so. There are one or two Unions to which we have advanced funds in which the Boards have not been dissolved.

7479. To any extent have you done that?

Not to any very great extent; but we have done it; Glenties, for example, last year.

7480. Swineford?

And Swineford; the circumstances of Swineford were peculiar.

7481. The difficulties arose there from circumstances, and not from mismanagement?

Yes, that was one distinction; but the great distinction was that there was a Chairman, Colonel George Vaughan Jackson (who has since died of fever caught in the discharge of his duties as Inspector), who devoted much time to attending the Board; I think he rather took pleasure in performing the duties of Chairman; he was also well supported by some other Guardians, into whom, perhaps, he infused his spirit, but who at any rate seemed to take nearly the same interest in the management of the Union as he did. We took all those

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circumstances into consideration, and did not dissolve the Swineford Board of Guardians.

7482. What class of persons have you been enabled to obtain, or have been appointed, as Auditors?
Since I have been in Ireland only two new Auditors have been appointed.

7483. The others had been previously appointed?
Yes.

7484. How are they paid?
From the Consolidated Fund.

7485. Schools are now established in all the Unions in Ireland; how are the expenses of education paid; are they paid out of the rates?
Out of the rates.

7486. How are the medical expenses paid; out of the rates?
Out of the rates; such medical expenses as are incurred by Guardians.

7487. You are aware that these classes of expenses are, in England, paid out of the Consolidated Fund?
Yes; but comparatively very little money is expended from the poor-rates in Ireland upon medical relief.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Two o'clock.

Die Mercurii, 25° Aprilis 1849.

The LORD STEWARD in the Chair.

Colonel WILLIAM AUGUSTUS CLARKE is called in, and examined, as follows:

7488. YOU are a Poor Law Inspector of certain Unions in the South-west of Ireland?

I am.

7489. Of which?

I have at present the Unions of Kenmare and Killarney; I had the three Unions forming the southern part of the county of Kerry, namely, Cahirciveen, Killarney and Kenmare; but latterly the Poor Law Commissioners were of opinion that the extreme distress existing in that part of the country was more than I could well manage, and they passed the Cahirciveen Union over to another Inspector, giving me the charge of Killarney and Kenmare Unions only.

7490. You had before that time been employed under the Temporary Relief Act?

I was employed under the Temporary Relief Act from March until the month of September 1847.

7491. Previously to that you had resided as a private individual for some time at Cahirciveen?

I had. I had heard a great deal of the severe distress existing in the western part of Ireland, and not having any occupation at the time, I went over to Cahirciveen, as being the extreme remote part of the West, to make myself acquainted with the manners and the real state of the people under the circumstances which then existed.

7492. Will you state to the Committee what was the condition of the Union of Cahirciveen at the time that you first took charge of it?

May I ask if your Lordship refers to the period when I went to reside there as a private individual, or when I went there as a Temporary Poor Law Inspector?

7493. Will you state both, so far as you had an opportunity of observing, when you resided there as a private individual?

When I went, in September 1846, as a private individual to Cahirciveen, I found a very great degree of alarm existing on the minds of the people; I think more alarm than actual destitution at that moment. Afterwards, the Public Works Relief Act was brought into operation, and it would be perhaps needless for me to say, that the greatest abuses took place under that Public Works Relief Act, as was common, I believe, in every part of the West of Ireland; that thousands and thousands of persons were put upon the works, receiving large wages, while many of the really destitute, from not being able-bodied, were left to starve; and the consequence was, that a very great number of persons died in the Union during that winter.

7494. Do you consider that any beneficial change was produced when the Public Works Relief Act was superseded by the Act granting relief in kind, without the exaction of labour in return?

I was removed from that part of the country into Tipperary when the Tem-

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porary Relief Act was brought into operation; therefore I was quite unacquainted with the operation of the Temporary Relief Act in the Cahirciveen Union.

7495. Will you state what was the condition of the Cahirciveen Union at the time when you went to the charge of it, in October 1847?

I found at that time that somewhere close upon 20,000 persons had been struck off relief at the termination of the Temporary Relief Act. I will not say precisely the number, but from 19,000 to 20,000 persons; no accommodation had been provided in the Workhouse of any description; the Workhouse was only calculated to contain 400 persons. They were without clothing, they were without food, they were without credit, they were deeply in debt; the distress was so great, that bread could not be procured for the patients in the hospital, not even upon my own personal credit, and the Guardians were obliged to substitute boiled rice for it, which was the sole and only diet in the hospital. I found the Board of Guardians there assembled entirely composed of the rural Guardians; they were not the most select that might be probably got together, and they seemed to be perfectly supine, and to have neglected their duties in every respect; a rate had been made; no efforts were made for the collection. I felt it my duty, under these circumstances, as soon as possible to bring before the Commissioners the necessity of superseding the Board, and having paid Guardians appointed, which they kindly acceded to; they sent down two gentlemen, who answered the purpose very well; they were willing to act with me, in fact, as I suggested.

7496. Will you state the period of this?

This was in 1847; the latter end of October and commencement of November 1847.

7497. When the paid Guardians were appointed?

They were appointed in December. The whole of the gentlemen of the country very kindly came forward, as well as the clergy, and knowing me, they said, "Colonel Clarke, we have great confidence in you, and we were very desirous to have your assistance; we applied for you to come here; we will put the whole administration of the Poor Law into your own hands; we will never interfere in anything; do what you think proper in every respect; call upon us, and we will aid you;" and they certainly carried out that with a great deal of good feeling. I commenced by increasing the Workhouse accommodation from 400 up to 1,240, by finishing temporary sheds which were upon the grounds, and by hiring additional buildings. I made it a rule always to retain room for 200 in the house, as a check, so that I could always say to any individual, "I have room." If a rush came upon the house on any particular occasion, I could discharge generally from 100 to 150 from the house, under the first section of the Relief Act, by which means I always kept room for 200 in the house, so as to apply the Workhouse test, and I found that to operate most beneficially. Instead of having some 400 or 500 persons yelling all round for admission, or 1,000 persons, as I have seen, everything then became regular and in order. The numbers increased upon the out-door list to somewhere about 4,000; that was the very outside number that ever we had, contradistinguished from 19,800 of the preceding year. In the month of July last, I made this proposal to the Vice-Guardians; I said, "The people have now some means at command; this is the time to do away with out-door relief altogether;" and the Relieving Officers were directed to issue one week's more food, and then to stop entirely, that they might take them all into the house; but of these there was not one single applicant to come into the house. I think there were at that time about 2,000 upon the out-door relief list. There were 85 persons who were retained on the out-door list, being persons labouring under chronic disease, or idiots, or persons of that sort, who would rather have been a nuisance in the house than otherwise. We had sufficient room for them, but their friends probably took better care of them than would have been the case in the house; and from that time until I left the Cahirciveen Union entirely, which was in December, or the latter part of November, the numbers had increased in a very slight degree; I think from 85 to about 120 only.

7498. What was the whole population of the Cahirciveen Union?

The population, according to the census of 1841, was 30,888, but I have every reason to believe that there was a considerable reduction in the population.

7499. Previously

7499. Previously to the time of your coming there?
Yes. I have always, in making statistical returns or remarks, calculated the population at 30,000 in round numbers.

7500. What do you consider to have been the cause of the reduction which you mention previously to your going there?
The fever that was so prevalent in the country in the Spring of 1847; the people died there in very large numbers. I am not speaking from my own knowledge, but what was reported to me after being there. The fever raged in the Cahirciveen Union probably as strongly as in any part of Ireland; the deaths were very numerous in the Spring of 1847.

7501. Have you reason to believe that any considerable reduction took place in the population of that Union during the time that you had the charge of it?
I think that a very considerable reduction has taken place in the population of all the three Unions under my charge; in the first place, from the great number of deaths that have taken place, and, secondly, from there having been no corresponding births; the births are very few, and the children have not the same appearance which they had: probably one of the most distressing features of the times in these Unions is the wretched emaciated appearance of the children; they come into the Workhouse clothed with rags, or naked, you may say, covered with ulcers and sores, and with scarcely life in them; they die very commonly within 24 hours after they come into the house; and I have been under the necessity myself of recommending to the doctor that these children, instead of being put upon a full diet on coming to the house, after what they have previously suffered, should only receive a small allowance of food for some three or four days, to accustom their stomachs to the food. The great number of deaths that take place in the Workhouses is of those admitted within a month.

7502. Immediately after admission?
Often immediately after admission.

7503. Of the 4,000 persons receiving out-door relief, which you spoke of as the greatest number in Cahirciveen Union, how many were able-bodied?
None; I never had an able-bodied man upon the out-door relief in the Cahirciveen Union.

7504. Among the number who were receiving relief at the time when you took charge of the Union, how many were able-bodied?
There were no persons receiving relief, except in the Workhouse, when I took charge; but the Workhouse was daily surrounded by hundreds and thousands of persons clamouring for relief, which the Guardians had not power to give them; the Act of Parliament had come in force, but they had not appointed their Relieving Officers; at least, they had named their Relieving Officers, but they had never put their Relieving Officers upon their duty; I had all this to do when I arrived there.

7505. You have stated that there were much fewer births within the Union; do you consider that the effect of the distress was to check, to any great extent, the marriages of the people?
I have no doubt of it; the marriages are very few indeed in the country; you hear of none.

7506. You stated that when you first went to take charge of the Cahirciveen Union, a general disposition was manifested, as well by the clergy of both denominations as by the gentry, to give you every possible support and assistance in carrying out your views?
Yes, they acted most nobly; I must give them the fullest credit for it.

7507. Did that continue during the whole time that you had the charge of that Union?
There was one solitary exception of a little opposition from our parish priest, but it died away in a very short time; and, as a proof of the kindly feeling entertained towards me, I beg to read to your Lordships the following letters, addressed to me when about to leave the Union.

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The same were delivered in, and read, as follows:

Respected and dear Sir, Cahirciveen, August 1st, 1848.

Having been informed that the relief given by the British Association to the children of the National Schools in our parishes is about to cease on the 19th instant, we, the Roman Catholic clergymen of the Deanery, in conference assembled, beg leave to return you thanks for the impartiality with which you presided over the distribution of that very useful charity. We feel grateful for the sympathy you have uniformly manifested for the wants of the numerous children committed to our care, and the kind attention you were ever ready to pay to our representations of their unexampled sufferings.

In the admirable plan which you adopted, of giving rations to the children of the National Schools, you took a wise and early precaution against having the funds of the British Association employed as means of proselytism, a course which, thank God, we have had little reason to complain of in this district; in short, in all our interviews with you, we felt happy that it was our good fortune to treat of the wants of the poor children with a benevolent and enlightened gentleman, who distributed the funds at his disposal fairly and honourably, without respect to creed or party; and it is our fervent prayer that, whenever your solicitude may have to be exercised elsewhere, you may experience every happiness and blessing to which the benefactors of the poor are pre-eminently entitled.

(signed) *John Healy*, P. P., Cahirciveen.
Thomas Lynch, P. P., Dromod.
John Fitzmaurice, R. C. C.
J. Murphy, C. C., Cahirciveen.
Thos. Fitzgerald, P. P., Prior.
Dan^{l} *Foley*, R. C. C., Prior.

My dear Sir, Glenbeigh, August 10th, 1848.

Having heard, from report, that you are about to leave this district, I beg leave, on the part of myself and my parishioners, to return you our most sincere and heartfelt thanks for all the kindness we have received at your hands. Ere you arrived amongst us, the people often attempted to rise in a body to attack the Workhouse and annoy the Guardians; but as soon as they discovered the deep interest you felt for all classes, and the promptitude with which you relieved the starving poor, without oppressing the farmers, they all placed unlimited confidence in your exertions to save this very poor Union from absolute ruin.

To prove how highly they value your services, and the ever-to-be-remembered liberality of the British Association, I need only mention that the report of your removal alarms them as much as the present potato-failure, which is quite as extensive as in 1846.

As far as personal esteem and, if I may add, friendship is concerned, I shall say that you will ever possess mine, both on public and private grounds.

I am, &c.

(signed) *Timothy Enwright*, P. P.,
Glenbeigh.

7508. The letters you have put in proceed from the clergy of the Roman Catholic persuasion?

They do.

7509. Have you had, generally speaking, the same proofs of confidence from the clergy of other religious denominations, including the Established Church?

Perfectly the same confidence has been placed in me; in the Cahirciveen Union I received an invitation to attend a public dinner which was intended to have been given to me, but, upon public grounds, I thought it better not to attend an invitation of that sort, being still in the employ of the Poor Law Commissioners; had my employment ceased under the Commissioners, I might have received such a mark of approbation, but, continuing in their employment, I thought it was better not to accept the invitation. Upon that occasion, it was intended there should be an address presented to me; the address from the Roman Catholic clergy, which I have submitted to the Committee, was sent to me upon the cessation of the relief to the children in the schools, from the British Association, and it was thought that my connexion with that Union would have closed at that period.

7510. As far as you had occasion to require the assistance of the resident clergymen of the Church of England, you found that assistance readily given?

Always most promptly.

7511. In the case of opposition, of which you spoke, on what subject was the difference of opinion?

The parish priest wished to enforce out-door relief being given indiscriminately in

in the parish in which he resided, and which was in opposition to my views, that the in-door test was the proper way of working the Poor Law at the time.

7512. Did you apply yourself to the introduction of any system of industrial employment for the inmates in the Cahirciveen Union?

I did; I got the women all employed in spinning, partly for flannel, and partly in making twine for fishing-nets; the fishing is of very great importance in the Cahirciveen Union, and I thought that it would be an admirable plan to set the children at work making fishing-nets, so as to encourage the crews of the boats at the Island of Valentia to give them proper gear to go to the fishery, upon this principle, that in the case of a boat's crew requiring a set of nets, and giving sufficient and proper security to the Guardians for the value of the nets, they should be delivered to them to be paid in money or in properly cured fish at a regulated price, and at a certain period, and I intended to have introduced fish generally as an article of dietary in the Workhouse, probably on two or three days in the week; I am not aware how far that has been carried out, excepting that when I left there were 500 yards of flannel in the house that had been made during the Summer, and a supply of fishing-nets in course of making by the children in the schools to a very large extent.

7513. The Committee conclude that you introduced that system of employment in a manner to interfere, as little as possible, with the trade of those regularly gaining their livelihood by such manufactures?

The only point that at all trenches upon that principle would be this article of the nets; in all other respects in Cahirciveen I have laid it down as a principle, that every single article of clothing and bedding which shall be required by the paupers in the house, shall be manufactured in the house from the raw material, but carefully to guard against any article being exposed for sale or made for sale so as not to interfere with the labour market outside.

7514. Did you give any other employment besides that of making nets in the Cahirciveen Union?

We commenced the spinning of the flannel. This industrial occupation was perfectly in its infancy in the Cahirciveen Union, because the paupers that had been in the house were merely put in there to be fed, and were, in fact, allowed just to take their own course; there was no boundary-wall; they could get out when they liked; in fact it was not a house of retention at all; the paupers just came there to be fed and clothed, and they wandered about as they pleased; there had been no discipline of any description observed in the house previously to my going there.

7515. Can you state the amount in the pound of the rates collected in the Cahirciveen Union?

When I went there, there was a 3*s.* rate in course of collection, but a very small portion of it had been collected. To the best of my recollection, in March 1848 they had collected 2*s.* 3*d.* of that rate, and it was collected in full within 450*l.* before another rate was brought into operation in August; in August last another rate of 3*s.* was struck, and by great exertion upon the part of the people, the whole of this rate, with a very small arrear, was collected within four months, the greater part of it within three months.

7516. How much in the pound in the course of the year would that be?

Six shillings in the pound in the course of the year; but then I must represent to your Lordships that there were sums advanced by the Commissioners, either from the British Relief Association, or from the Treasury, amounting to about a 3*s.* rate more, which would make 9*s.*; but I found a debt existing on the Union that required, as nearly as possible, the amount that was to be collected of the 3*s.* rate, which was in operation when I went there; therefore, in fact, the whole expenses of the Union amounted to about 6*s.* in the pound for the twelve months; when I left them they did not owe a sixpence to any person, and they had 1,200*l.*, including a part of the rate, then to collect; therefore their circumstances were more favourable, probably, than those of a great many other Unions in that respect. There was great exertion made by the parties in paying their rates, and they paid them very punctually indeed; I believe there are very few instances in Ireland, in any of the remote districts, where a 3*s.* rate has been collected in so short a time.

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7517. Is not that generally considered a very poor part of Ireland?
It has, I believe, always been considered one of the very poorest.

7518. So that, in point of fact, during the time that you were there, they paid off a debt amounting to one-third of the amount that was found sufficient for defraying the expenses of the Union during the twelve months?
It was approximating to it; I could not exactly say that it was to the full amount; but the amount of debt when I took the charge of the Union was very nearly the same sum as the balance of rate that had not been collected at the time; therefore the actual expenses for the Union during the 12 months that I was with it, consisted of a 3*s.* rate, which we had collected, and the sum of 3,500*l.*, or thereabouts, that we had received from other sources; a 3*s.* rate will produce, if all collected, about 3,400*l.*

7519. So that the sum of 6,800*l.* was sufficient for the 12 months current expenses of the Union during the time that you had it under your charge?
Just so; I must observe, at the same time, that I was feeding 3,600 children in the public schools at the time, which is not taken into this calculation. The British Relief Association placed funds at my disposal for feeding children attending the established schools; and in the Cahirciveen Union I had about 3,600 of these children.

7520. How much was the sum that was given for the feeding of the children?
I have not the return with me, but, to the best of my recollection, money and food to the value of about 1,700 *l.* was given.

7521. When you say that a rate of 6 *s.* in the pound was sufficient, would it have been sufficient without leaving the children in that state of wretchedness which you have previously described?
The state of wretchedness which I have previously described did not apply to that time; the state of wretchedness of the children, of which I have spoken, is at the present moment; at that time the children were in a much better state than they now are.

7522. Do you state that a 9*s.* rate, that is to say, the 6*s.* actually raised in the Union, together with the sum which was equivalent to a 3*s.* rate, would have been sufficient to defray the whole expense, including the children of whom you speak as being maintained in the schools?
I think it would if there had been no debt, because I paid off the debt of the Union.

7523. I would have been sufficient to defray the current expenses, including those children?
It think it would have paid every expense.

7524. With regard to Cahirciveen, you stated that there were 19,800 people on out-door relief?
Under the Temporary Relief Act.

7525. Will you now apply yourself to the Killarney Union; when did you take the charge of that Union?
I took charge of that Union in October last.

7526. What was the state of that Union when you took charge of it in regard to destitution; will you make the same statement with respect to that, as nearly as you can, as you have made with respect to Cahirciveen?
I am not acquainted with the numbers who were receiving relief in the Killarney Union, until the time that I commenced with it under the Poor Law. The Killarney Board of Guardians is, probably, one of the most efficient in Ireland; they have worked well; they have exerted themselves to the utmost; they have had no aid whatever from the Government: they have entirely relied on their own exertions, and at the present moment they are extremely prosperous in their circumstances. They have now in their bank about 3,000*l.*, and they do not owe a sixpence to any one individual; they are perfectly clear in the world; they have relied entirely upon themselves, and are continuing to rely entirely upon themselves; it is, in fact, a most efficient well-working Board. The extent of destitution has increased very rapidly within the last three weeks, so much so, that I recommended to the Commissioners to issue a sealed order under the

the 2d section of the Act, not to the able-bodied, but to some classes who are not enumerated in the 1st section; such as widows with one child only, and orphans; these are not allowed to be relieved out of the Workhouse under the 1st section; but under a sealed order of the Commissioners by the 2d section they may be so relieved. I have reason to know that destitution has increased very rapidly in the Killarney Union, because on last Monday week, when I attended the Board, I was occupied from 11 o'clock until half past 6 in investigating cases that came before the Board, and nearly every individual case accepted the in-door relief. In all previous weeks since the end of January there was scarcely 1 in 10 that would accept the Workhouse test; therefore, that shows that there must be a greater amount of destitution than there was previously; because the same disposition would keep the people out, or more so now that the fine weather is coming than before.

7527. Have you been enabled to apply the Workhouse test to the cases of all able-bodied applicants in that Union?

Hitherto in the Killarney Union we have had no sealed order for able-bodied. There was a great attempt made in the early part of the Winter to force the Guardians into universal out-door relief; I believe that was general in almost every Union that came under my observation, and there was a very great pressure until about Christmas, when the Board of Guardians, by taking additional buildings, were determined to apply the Workhouse test in every particular, and the pressure ceased; and in February I was able to dispense with the sealed order, authorizing relief to certain persons under the 2d section; that was in the beginning of February; but now, this week, I am obliged again to apply for the renewal of that sealed order.

7528. You were enabled to dispense with the sealed order to all persons under the 2d section during the time of which you speak?

Yes.

7529. What number have you the means of accommodating in the Workhouse with the addition of the buildings which you state you have added to it?

At this present moment there is room for 2,800; there was room for 3,100; but the Guardians were obliged to appropriate a building, that was capable of containing 300, for a cholera hospital, which has reduced the accommodation to 2,800.

7530. What number was the Workhouse calculated to hold?

Eight hundred.

7531. Have you been able, in the case of Killarney, to do what you state yourself to have done at Cahirciveen, namely, to fit up parts of the Workhouse for industrial occupation?

I am now endeavouring to bring that into operation. I have submitted a plan to the Commissioners for building workshops of every description. The Guardians are quite willing to go to the expense of doing so. There will be a smith's forge, a carpenter's shop, a cooper's shop, a tailor's shop and a shoemaker's shop; in fact, every thing that can be required to be used in the house will be made upon the premises. I have also got the Guardians to purchase one of Mr. Parott's capstan mills; and the Guardians are erecting the building for the mill, and the whole operation of grinding corn will be effected in the house.

7532. By manual labour?

By manual labour, which will employ a class which it is most difficult to manage in the Workhouse, that is, the able-bodied male adults. It is very difficult to find employment for these persons that is of an unattractive nature. I believe it is a great object looked to in the administration of the law not to give attractive labour. I hope in two months to have the whole of those in full operation. I have myself written to some Guardians, who have an intimate knowledge of industrial occupation in Workhouses as to manufactures. I have the whole of their statements of the employment of every individual, and the progress of the employment. I am getting those printed, and hope to be able to introduce them in Cahirciveen, Killarney and Kenmare; but there may be some difficulty in carrying these things out until the great pressure ceases, because there is not a

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staff commensurate with the great additional number that require to be looked after. The time of the Master and Assistant-master is taken up now more in looking after the food and clothing of the people, than into their industrial occupation, because the Workhouse of Killarney, being only intended for 800, and now having 2,800, it must be very evident that the Master and Matron cannot pay the same attention to industrial occupation that they would do if the inmates were brought down to their usual number. I do not think that we shall be able to bring this plan into full beneficial operation until such time as the pressure has ceased upon the country.

7533. Have you been able to bring it so far into operation as to prevent the necessity of giving any out-door relief to able-bodied persons?

I have brought it to this as far as Killarney, that we give no out-door relief to able-bodied persons.

7534. Have you at Killarney, as at Cahirciveen, found a general disposition among the gentry and the clergy of the neighbourhood to co-operate and to assist you in your arrangements?

On my first arrival in the Killarney Union, I thought that there appeared to be a little jealousy on the part of the Board of interference of a Government officer; that they imagined that they were managing their affairs perfectly satisfactorily; but since that time I see a very great change; they treat me with a very great deal of confidence, and on every occasion they consult me, and wish to have my opinion. I am very much gratified in every respect with the Killarney Union, both with the gentry and the clergy.

7535. Of what class of persons is the Board at the Killarney Union principally composed?

There are several of the gentry of the country who are very regular in their attendance. Mr. Cronin Coltsman, of Fleek Castle, who is the Chairman of the Board, a large landed proprietor, is constant in his attendance. Mr. Herbert, the County Member, when he was there, was constant in his attendance; he never missed a Board-day; and there are three or four very working gentlemen, that do, in fact, the whole business of the Board. Rural Guardians are a little talkative, as we see in other places, and take up a good deal of valuable time.

7536. Is there not a more considerable number of gentlemen, owing to the beauty of the neighbourhood, resident in that part than in any other remote part of Ireland?

Certainly.

7537. And therefore there is a much more considerable choice of persons to perform the functions of Guardians?

Certainly.

7538. Do the Guardians of rather an inferior grade in society work harmoniously and well with the gentry?

I think they do; I think the Board of Guardians is a better class of persons than in other cases; the farmers and rural Guardians I am speaking of.

7539. Are the gentry of the neighbourhood generally ex-officio or elected Guardians?

I only know of one instance of a large landed proprietor being an elected Guardian; that is the case of Mr. Shine Lawlor; he was an ex-officio Guardian, as a magistrate; but under the political circumstances of the last year, with which he was supposed to identify himself, he was deprived of the commission of the peace, and was afterwards elected a Guardian for Killarney.

7540. Are you aware whether it was a subject of contest?

There was no contest.

7541. There have been no contests for the elections generally in that Union?

At the election that took place on the 25th of March last, there was a contest in the town of Killarney, but not of any consequence.

7542. So that you have reason to suppose that the elected Guardians have the confidence of all parties of the rate-payers?

I believe that to be the case.

7543. And

7543. And the ex-officio Guardians also?
Most fully.

7544. Can you state whether the elected Guardians are people of a very respectable class?
The elected Guardians in the Killarney Union are generally substantial farmers and respectable shop-keepers in the different towns and localities; I think they are a more intelligent class than is generally found in the West of Ireland, as a body.

7545. Can you state what is the amount of rates that have been struck and applied in the Killarney Union?
It has varied very much in different Electoral Divisions in the Killarney Union; in one Electoral Division, that of Killorglin, the rates during the 12 months amounted to 14*s.* in the pound.

7546. Was that the rate struck, or the rate collected?
There is one rate now in course of collection; I am speaking now of the rates that were struck.

7547. In what year was that?
That was the year 1848; it is now in course of collection.

7548. How much was previously collected; were all the former rates collected?
The collection has been very good in the Killarney Union generally; the arrears have been very small; but I fear that the arrears of the present rate will be very heavy.

7549. Are not the resources of the Killarney Union far superior, as regards the population, to the resources of Cahirciveen?
If we take the relative proportion between population and valuation, we find, that in the Killarney Union the population, in round numbers, is about 54,000, and the valuation about 84,000*l.*; that will give a tolerably fair idea of the resources of the country.

7550. How is it in Cahirciveen?
In the Cahirciveen Union the proportion was, I believe, the lowest of any in Ireland, except Westport; the actual value to each individual in the Cahirciveen Union was 14*s.* 1¼*d.*

7551. You have stated the amount of rate that was struck; the statement which is laid before us as to the amount collected in the Killarney Union for the year ending 1848, is to the following effect: in one Electoral Division 10*s.* in the pound; in one 9*s.* 6*d.* in the pound; in one 8*s.* in the pound; in one 7*s.* 6*d.*; in two 7*s.*; in one 6*s.* 6*d.*; and in five 6*s.*, making, on the twelve Electoral Divisions, 7*s.* 1½*d.* in the aggregate; is that correct?
I believe that is my own statement.

7552. On the whole, when those very heavy rates were not merely struck, but collected, was the collection satisfactory to you; did you find a disposition, on the part of the people, to contribute as far as they could?
There is only one of those rates that has been in operation since I have been connected with the Union.

7553. In relation to that one, have you found any difficulty?
I have found some difficulty; I have found that the collectors were not doing their duty in the way which was proper; I had one of them summoned before the Court of Petty Sessions last Tuesday week, and had him fined 5*l.* for neglect of duty; I was not satisfied with the progress that they had made with the collection; but at this particular period of the year there are very considerable difficulties to contend with in a butter country; there is no butter in the market, and until the butter comes in, it is almost impossible to get in the poor-rates; another great obstacle is, that cattle were never so depreciated in value as at the present moment; the cattle that were selling last year at 50*s.* and 55*s.* are now offered for 22*s.* and 23*s.*, without purchasers; taking these circumstances altogether, it is almost impossible to expect, until the month of June, that any money can be collected for poor-rates in the grazing countries.

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7554. Are not the same difficulties which you have described as affecting the collection of poor-rates equally felt and recognized with respect to the collection of rents and county rates, so that at this time of the year it is neither considered usual nor practicable to enforce those payments in a butter country?

It is extremely difficult to do so; but I felt it my duty to force the collector into regularity, at least, of attendance, although I could not force him to a good collection; as I have observed, I had the party summoned and fined for non-attendance.

7555. Could you state to us the financial condition of the Killarney Union at the time that you undertook its management; was there any amount of debt at that time due?

When I took the management they were in a perfect state; they had good balances at their bankers, regular payments, weekly contracts, and everything was most satisfactory.

7556. Have you made any estimate of what will be required for the support of the poor in the Killarney Union from hence up to next harvest?

If the present rate could be collected, if it were a good collection, leaving the ordinary arrears, we will say, of some 400*l.* or 500*l.* upon the entire sum of 13,000*l.*, they would have sufficient, I think, to carry them up till the middle of July next, until such time, in fact, as the potatoes would become available in the country.

7557. Will you state the amount of uncollected rate which now stands, upon which you would rely as the means of supporting them up to July or August?

I can approximate to it; they had in the bank, when I left them, somewhere close upon 3,000*l.*, and I think they had about 4,200*l.* to collect; I am approximating now; that will be close upon 7,000*l.* to look forward to.

7558. With what degree of confidence do you anticipate the collection of that rate which is now in progress, or out of that given amount of rate which is now in progress, how much do you calculate upon receiving in that interval?

That is a difficult question, and must depend so much upon circumstances of which I could not have a knowledge; I know, so far as this, that parties who ought to have paid have not paid. I know that instructions have been given to the solicitor to proceed immediately against many parties by civil bill, who have the means of paying, and are known to have the means of paying; every endeavour will be made to enforce the payment that the law will allow, but I anticipate that the arrears will be larger upon the present rate than any we have yet known in the Killarney Union.

7559. And that the balance which is in hand will also be exhausted?

Necessarily.

7560. In the papers which are before us, there is generally given something of an approximate estimate (for it cannot be more than that) on the part of the officers employed by the Government; they are enabled to give an approximate estimate of the amount which they expect of rate to be collected, subject, of course, to that variation; could you form an opinion as to the possibility of the amount?

The rate was struck on the estimate, that it was to cover the expenses up to the 1st of August next; that was the calculation made at the time. Now, as the extent of destitution has not equalled what was expected, the expenses have not equalled what was expected at the time when this rate was struck; but whether parties will be enabled to pay these rates to the same extent as was calculated upon, is a matter of extreme difficulty to decide. I have no doubt that very many persons would abandon the country altogether, give up their farms, and leave rates unpaid if they could get any price for their cattle. I consider the very low price of cattle at the present moment to be the means of saving a very valuable class to the country, and that it is probably because they cannot get sufficient money for their cattle that they are now induced to remain in it.

7561. Is there any considerable extent of land in the Killarney Union which is thrown out of cultivation?

I believe very little.

7562. Are

7562. Are there not proprietors in the neighbourhood, many of whose estates are managed with great benevolence and great consideration for the people?
There can be no doubt of that.

7563. Do you consider, assuming that you receive as much as is likely to be paid, that out of the resources of the Union itself you will be enabled to provide for the destitution of that Union between this and harvest?
Fully so; I do not think there is any apprehension upon the minds of the Guardians as to their being enabled to meet the whole expenses of the Union up to the harvest.

7564. Do you think that the resources of the Union will be such as to enable it to bear any additional taxation beyond the amount of that which may be required for its own purposes of poor relief?
It would be extremely difficult to give an opinion upon that point; they certainly have taxed themselves to a very heavy degree, and have maintained their independence; but whether they would be able to bear an additional taxation beyond that, is a very difficult point to say; the resources of many are exhausted, there can be no doubt.

7565. Take the case of the Electoral Division of Killorglin, which actually paid 10*s.* in the pound; do you think that it would have borne any additional taxation for any other part of Ireland?
Killorglin is very peculiarly circumstanced; they have great riches in that Electoral Division from the salmon fishery of the Laune, which runs through a great part of it. It is a very fine wheat-growing country; there is very fine wheat land all round, and the farmers all appear to be a very substantial class of persons; there were very great efforts made there under the Temporary Relief Act to force Government aid to every single individual throughout the Electoral Division, and those best acquainted with the country have told me, that they received a larger amount of aid in proportion to their real necessities than any other Electoral Division of the Union.

7566. That applies to the district of Killorglin?
Yes.

7567. Has that extended relief, which you have so described, in your judgment increased the difficulty of administering the Poor Law after that relief system ceased?
I can have no doubt that it did increase the difficulty, because the people were very much demoralized by that temporary relief which was given, and it was extremely difficult to bring them back to a wholesome state of feeling.

7568. Did it not lead to an anticipation of unbounded resources and of claims, consequently, on the part of the people equally unbounded?
I can have no doubt that the people were impressed with the idea that Government aid would be extended to them during every Winter, and that that induced them to habits of improvidence that they did not husband the small means which they possessed in June and July last. There was a common expression, "Now boys, never mind, the Government will take care of us through the Winter;" there was that feeling in the country.

7569. Practically, was not that system, as well as the system of public works, which was antecedent to it, an out-door relief upon the most gigantic scale that was ever introduced into a country?
I do not suppose there ever was so gigantic an experiment tried, or that was carried out so perfectly with such insufficient machinery.

7570. When you say that it was perfectly carried out, you mean that in the abstract it was perfectly carried out, or, considering the difficulties, that it was carried out as perfectly as circumstances admitted of?
I mean considering the difficulties.

7571. In parts of the Killarney Union is it not the case that the potato failure has not been quite so great as in other parts of Kerry?
It varied very much; in some parts of the Union they have abundance of good potatoes at the present time; the potatoes are selling cheaper at the present time than they did at any corresponding time generally during the most prosperous seasons.

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7572. At the market of Killarney?
Yes.

7573. At Killarney, also, have there not been some works carrying on during a portion of the time to which your evidence may refer?
Some drainage works.

7574. Were there not some works of railways?
The railway has not been in operation since the time that I was there.

7575. But it had antecedently?
Antecedently.

7576. But not to a great extent?
There were about 10 miles of the Junction Railway, that is, from Killarney to Mallow.

7577. Of the earthworks?
Of the earthworks, and a great many of the bridges.

7578. Those works provided a considerable extent of unremunerative labour at good wages to the people, did they not?
No doubt, during the time that they were in operation.

7579. Is there not also a considerable public building in progress at Killarney that adds to the demand for labour?
There is; there is a lunatic asylum, which is a very large building; I think that there is labour there for 100 or probably for 120 persons.

7580. And do not individual proprietors, such as Lord Kenmare, and Mr. Herbert and others, give a larger amount of personal labour than is given in the average state of Irish society elsewhere?
There is a considerable quantity of labour given, and a great desire to induce the people to labour. There is some property which Mr. Herbert has in the Electoral Division of Aghadoe, where he is carrying on drainage. And it has been a common complaint to the Board with Mr. Leahy, who is his agent and a Guardian, that he found that the persons in that neighbourhood would not work, although they could get their 10*d.* a day easily, and 1*s.* by a little extra exertion; they abandoned the work.

7581. Did he state to you the reason, or suggest what could be the motive of persons, in times of pressure and difficulty, for not accepting gladly the alternative of labour so offered and paid?
I did not hear him express an opinion; but I have generally found in that part of the country that the people prefer the smallest modicum of the most inferior food with idleness, to a superior description of food with labour.

7582. Do you believe that to apply to the other parts of the South of Ireland with which you are acquainted?
As far as Kenmare and Killarney go, I believe it to apply.

7583. And to parts of Tipperary in which you were, and Cahirciveen?
I think that they are a more industrious people in Cahirciveen Union than they are in Killarney or Kenmare.

7584. You have stated that the manner in which relief was afforded under the Public Works Act and the Relief Act made it difficult to bring back the administration of relief within due limits?
I can have no doubt that that did throw very great difficulties in the way of the successful operation of the Poor Law.

7585. You stated, however, that those difficulties had been successfully overcome in the Union of Cahirciveen?
They were successfully overcome.

7586. Do you believe that the employment of the same means in other Unions would be likely to produce the same effect?
I am endeavouring to introduce the same system of management into the two Unions which I have now under my charge. Speaking generally, I think that by

by following the same system which was adopted in the Cahirciveen Union, I should be able to produce the same results.

7587. You stated the great advantages which have been derived from the employment given upon 10 miles of railway in the Union of Killarney. Is that not an advantage to the people in regard to the travellers who are in the habit of visiting Killarney; do they not spend a good deal of money which gets into circulation, and which leads to additional employment?

The last Summer the unfortunate state of the country entirely deterred persons from visiting Killarney; and so far from any benefit being derived there, I was informed that the proprietor of the Victoria Hotel was a dead loser of 1,000 *l.* by the season.

7588. Are you not convinced that in the formation of those 10 miles of railway, a great deal of money must have been expended by the Company amongst the people, not alone that they gave employment to the people, but also that they put in circulation a great deal of money, which went from hand to hand in that neighbourhood?

The works on that line have ceased for some considerable time.

7589. Had they not ceased previously to your coming to Killarney?

Yes.

7590. Still the money was expended and put in circulation?

I am not quite certain whether the labourers were drawn from Killarney entirely; the money would be expended, certainly.

7591. Do you attribute any portion of the advantages which you have described as existing in Killarney, to the fact of the Killarney district being rather a grazing than an arable country?

The Killarney district is not peculiarly a grazing district; there is a great part of the Killarney Union that is arable; there is very fine wheat land; and grain crops are grown there in very great perfection.

7592. Is the subdivision of property as great in Killarney Union, or a similar Union, as it is in Unions where the occupation of the people is more exclusively tillage?

I do not think that the subdivisions of land are so minute in the Killarney Union as they are in other parts.

7593. With reference to the rate that is now in collection, is the 4,000 *l.* which you mentioned to be outstanding arrears of the 13,000 *l.* that are now in collection, or is it any other rate?

The rate now in collection.

7594. That is 4,000 *l.*?

Four thousand pounds, with the exception of the ordinary arrears that are brought forward from one rate to another, which probably might be 500 *l.* or 600 *l.*; those would be brought forward from the last rate, and included in the present rate. When I speak of the 4,000 *l.* it includes the whole, that is, the arrears of the last rate, and the rate that was made in December last.

7595. You stated that there were parties who had not paid, but who you considered were able to pay the rate; did you mean by that, that they were able to pay without any material diminution of their permanent resources, or that they were persons possessed of capital sufficient to pay, provided that capital was trenched upon for the purpose of paying the rate?

I do not think that it was trenching upon capital; but I think that the ordinary income of these parties was such that they ought to have paid the rate; that they were able to pay it from their ordinary income, without trenching upon their capital.

7596. What class of persons was it against whom, as you were understood to say, the solicitor was directed to proceed by civil bill?

One that he was directed to proceed against was one of the Board of Guardians.

7597. Was he a lessor or an occupier of land?

A lessor.

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7598. Was it for tenements under a 4*l.* holding, or for land in his own occupation?

I cannot exactly state whether the sum total was made up from the 4*l.* holdings, but I rather think from both; that is, from land in his own occupancy, and from the holdings of 4*l.* and under, combined.

7599. In what courts was it intended to proceed?

In the ordinary court.

7600. Before the Assistant Barrister?

Not in the superior court.

7601. Have you ever had any proceedings taken in the Killarney Union in the superior courts?

No, I have not. The Guardians cannot proceed in the superior courts without first obtaining the permission of the Poor Law Commissioners; but by civil bill they can.

7602. Do you attribute the facility with which, in comparison with other places, the rates have been collected in the Killarney Union, to the circumstance that in that system of farming which you have described a greater capital is required to be in hand than where they live from hand to mouth, as in other districts where they cultivate the potato and oats solely?

I think the facility which has been shown in collecting the rates has been in a great measure attributable to the very good feeling that existed on the part of the gentry of the country that they combined together, and said, "We will put our shoulders manfully to the wheel, and we will carry through the Poor Law, if we can, at whatever sacrifice;" and I believe that that has operated upon their tenants, and has induced them to make every possible effort to carry out the Poor Law.

7603. Then do you imply by that answer that in other districts there is rather a want of exertion on the part of the population to carry out the Poor Law, than an exhaustion of their resources for paying the rates?

In answer to that question, I must draw a distinction between the different Unions which have been under my charge. In the Cahirciveen Union I got the Guardians to strike a 3*s.* rate; the gentry of the country said, "We will help you; this rate shall be got in within four months;" and it was collected within four months. Now that was a very great effort for the country. In the Kenmare Union there is not the same co-operation; there does not appear the same desire to co-operate with the Vice-Guardians.

7604. Take Cahirciveen, and compare it with Killarney, and, assuming the same good disposition and earnest anxiety to assist in the collection of the rate, are not the circumstances of the two Unions so different that it would have been impossible to have collected in the Cahirciveen Union the rates that you have collected in Killarney?

I think that if you compare the proportion between the amount actually collected in the Cahirciveen Union and the means of the country, and the proportion between the amount collected in Killarney, and the means of the country, you will find that the advantage is with the Cahirciveen Union.

7605. Assuming the proportion of destitution to be the same in the two Unions, do you think, for instance, that there would have been the power of collecting 10*s.* in the pound in any of the Electoral Divisions of Cahirciveen?

No.

7606. Or 9*s.* 6*d.* in the pound?

I think not.

7607. Or on an average 7*s.* 1½*d.* in the pound?

I have always considered that in the Cahirciveen Union (to which I have paid most attention, having been there a longer time, and looking upon it rather as a child of my own), that a 7*s.* rate in the course of the year was the maximum that the country could possibly bear, and that not for a continuance. I merely look upon it to meet the pressure of a certain period.

7608. When we talk of poundage-rate, of course that bears a reference to the valuation; will you state whether the valuations in the Cahirciveen Union and the

the Killarney Union are, in your judgment, made upon the same principles, and bear the same definite proportion to the real value of the land?

I think that they do. I think that the valuations in the two Unions are formed much upon the same principle.

7609. Taking that, what do you think would be the rate in Cahirciveen which would be analogous to the same rate in Killarney; that is to say, what is the different value of the land in the two cases?

The land in the Killarney Union is very superior to that in the Cahirciveen Union. In the Cahirciveen the arable land is of a very small quantity, in fact, confined to potatoes, because grain is almost unknown in the country, except a few oats and a little barley; the oats grown in the country are not sufficient for the consumption of the horses.

7610. In a district which is close upon the Atlantic, like the Cahirciveen Union, is there not, as a natural consequence of the use of sea-manure, a great increase of population, facility of supporting families, and consequent subdivision of land, as compared with the inland parts?

That is the natural consequence that follows. They have an abundance of the sea-weed and of the coral sand. They can raise an immense quantity of potatoes upon a very small plot of land; there is, consequently, subletting to an infinitesimal degree, and increase of population, and it is upon those particular parts where the great weight of destitution has fallen.

7611. Where the destitution arises from the failure of the potato crop, is it not upon those districts, where the potato crop anteriorly had been very abundant and easily raised, that the great pressure rests?

It is.

7612. Where the division of the occupations is very great, and the potato is the chief cultivation, is not the letting value of the land greater in proportion to the absolute value and fertility of the land than in districts which are devoted to grazing and to the production of wheat?

There can be no doubt of it; because, if you go to the con-acre system, we know instances where the rents have risen as high as 7 *l.* or 8 *l.* an acre, where the original rent paid has not been 25 *s.*

7613. By con-acre you mean that system which hires the land for a particular crop?

Exactly.

7614. Consequently, con-acre rent is far from representing the actual and ordinary rent which *communibus annis* would be paid?

Certainly.

7615. Will you state, as far as you can, what would be the proportion; let us assume, in a country where the con-acre charge amounted to 6 *l.* an acre, what do you think might be supposed to be the average rent of that land?

I could speak more positively upon that in Tipperary, because that system is followed more extensively there than in the extreme west part of the country. The average price of land there is about from 2 *l.* to 2 *l.* 5 *s.*, speaking of the Irish acre in the neighbourhood of Clogheen; but I have known as much as at the rate of 6 *l.* 10 *s.* to 7 *l.* being paid merely for a crop.

7616. Speaking generally, is the con-acre rent received by the inheritor of the soil, or by the tenant under the land-owner, who lets out the con-acre to persons who hire it?

By the tenant.

7617. And does not that tenant manure and prepare the land?

Certainly, it is upon that principle.

7618. Then, bearing in mind what you stated with regard to the higher letting of lands thus cultivated than of lands laid out in the more ordinary way in that country, would a valuation, on the principle of the letting value of the land, be a fair valuation in respect to the resources of the country to support a charge like that of the poor-rates?

That is a question which requires a very great deal of consideration, because we must recollect, that in all these small holdings the immediate lessor pays the

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poor-rates; he only receives the smaller rental, and he has to pay the poor-rate upon that smaller rental; but if you were to assess him upon the larger rental, we will say of 6 *l.* 10 *s.* an acre, you would assess him beyond the real value of the land; in fact, you would assess him to the poor-rate beyond the profits that he derived from the land.

7619. Have these valuations, then, been made on the actual rent which the land ought to bear in its present condition, or simply in relation to the rent which the landlord was known to receive?

I think there was a good deal of reference made to the rent actually paid to the immediate lessor, and that a deduction was made of 20 to 25 per cent. from that as a general principle in the valuation for the poor-law. This I have understood to have been the principle generally followed in the west part of Ireland.

7620. You stated that 6 *s.* in the pound had been collected in Cahirciveen in one year; when the 6 *s.* was paid, supposing the valuation to be a fair one, there ought to have been receivable as the rent of that land, upon the principles on which the poor-law valuation is founded, by the lessor 17 *s.*, deducting 3 *s.* for his share of the rate?

Yes.

7621. Do you believe that in that year the lessors did receive 17 *s.*?

Certainly not; on the contrary.

7622. Did they receive one-half of it?

No; I believe we might say that they did not receive one-half; and, I believe, in many instances, not one-third.

7623. Therefore, when you state, as you have stated, that 6 *s.* or 7 *s.* in the pound would be as much as Cahirciveen can bear, the Committee presume that you do not refer to that particular year, but to a year when the pound mentioned would be in real existence?

I did not refer to that particular year; I referred to the ordinary pressure that takes place in every year, I believe, in the West of Ireland for some three or four months. I think that if rents were moderately paid, not to the extreme extent that is sometimes expected, the country would be able to bear 7 *s.* in the pound, but not year after year.

7624. In which of the Unions to which your attention has been called are the children now in that deplorable state which you have already described?

In both the Killarney and the Kenmare Unions.

7625. Then, though you describe the rates as being punctually paid, still enough is not collected to relieve the great amount of distress which now prevails?

If the persons would accept the relief which was offered to them, if they would come into the Workhouse, and accept the Workhouse test, there is quite sufficient; but these children, I must observe, are the children of parents who do not apply for relief; they will not come into the Workhouse; they keep them out till the very last moment; and I am informed (I cannot speak from positive knowledge), that many instances have arisen where parents on the out-door relief list have appropriated the food which they received for their children to their own use; I am afraid that in too many instances they have done so; I know under the Temporary Relief Act very many cases of that description come within my knowledge, where parents made away with the allowance which was given to them for their families under the law, and left their children to perish, and I have no reason to believe that the morals of the people have improved within the last two years.

7626. Do you imagine that their morals have very much deteriorated during the course of the last two years?

That is a point upon which I have endeavoured to obtain as much information as possible. That the people are demoralized to a very great degree there can be no doubt; there is robbery, wilful perjury, and every vice that can be imagined, in the country; the only matter of doubt with me is this, whether the people have become demoralized in consequence of the famine, or whether we see their character more clearly by more frequent intercourse with them.

7627. But

7627. But did you ever hear anteriorly to the famine, and anteriorly to the system of out-door relief, such as you have described it, of any instances of Irish parents, in any part of Ireland, taking the food for themselves, and leaving their children unprovided for?

No, I never did; that was a point which I brought particularly before Sir John Burgoyne, under the Relief Act.

7628. But is it not the case that they never were so severely tried?

They never were so severely tried.

7629. From what you have already stated, their extreme aversion to receive relief within the house seems to be rather disappearing?

It is disappearing now.

7630. Is there much vagrancy at Killarney?

There is a great deal.

7631. Is the vagrancy there chiefly composed of persons belonging to Killarney, or is it a place of resort from the peculiar circumstances of Killarney, and during a portion only of the year?

There is a regular class of professionals in Killarney who have been supported by the public visiting there for many years; you cannot get rid of this class by any possible means; they prefer begging to going into the Workhouse, or receiving out-door relief; they are a class of people that you never will get rid of, I believe, as long as Killarney is Killarney.

7632. Has the condition of that class very materially deteriorated since the period of the distress?

I do not see that it has; I see exactly the same faces now that I have seen for 35 years.

7633. In an equally good condition?

I see them now just the same.

7634. You stated, that an inn-keeper of Killarney had suffered very much from the change of circumstances, and visitors not coming; that must have affected the circumstances of professional beggars also?

It must.

7635. Then, do you suppose that these beggars, whom you have long known, support themselves upon capital that they have previously acquired?

No, I do not think that; but I think that they pick up sufficient from a certain number of people about the country; they all call them by their christian names, and address them in terms of familiarity; they give them a fourpenny piece or a sixpence, and they seem to live upon it exactly the same as they did in the most prosperous times.

7636. Then the collection of the poor-rate has very little affected the feelings of charity by which mendicancy was relieved among the residents of Killarney?

I do not put it down to charity; it is a certain sort of idle feeling which men have.

7637. In addition to those beggars who are residents of Killarney, has it not been usual for great numbers of beggars from other parts of Ireland to resort to Killarney at what they call the season of that place?

A kind of freemasonry has always existed among the beggars of Killarney; they do not allow interlopers; they form a community amongst themselves, as far as I have been informed, and they will not allow interlopers from other parts of the county.

7638. Do they come and go at particular seasons?

No, I see the same faces.

7639. Throughout the year?

Throughout the year.

7640. Under the circumstances of last year, several of the boatmen must have been thrown out of business, must not they?

I believe there were a great many. The visitors were so very few at Killarney last summer, that, in fact, there was nothing doing of any sort.

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7641. You referred, in answer to a former question, to the cultivation of potatoes in the Killarney Union; are you aware that any considerable breadth of land is sown with potatoes at the present time?

I believe a greater breadth of land to be under potatoes at the present moment than in any previous year, at this period of the year.

7642. Is any more broken up for potatoes?

A great deal.

7643. Have the people prepared the land at an earlier period than usual, in consequence of the experience of the last few years?

Yes, six weeks earlier.

7644. Has con-acre been introduced widely?

It is not prevalent at all in that part of the country; and I think it has been entirely done away with within the last two years.

7645. By what class of persons has this crop been chiefly sown?

The old farming class have sown potatoes very largely, according to their farms; those holding small plots of land under 4*l.* rely upon the potatoes entirely; many of them possess an acre, or half an acre; these persons rely entirely upon potatoes, and this year rely upon them the same as usual. There are instances of farms having been thrown up, but very few that have come to my knowledge. In cases of persons coming to demand relief, it is always a question which I put to them, whether they possess land, so as to see how the Quarter-Acre Clause would operate, and nine out of ten say they have never had land; others, in very few instances, say they have given up their land. Now, I believe there are very few persons who have actually given up their land.

7646. In cases where these small lots of land have been given up, is that let again to small occupiers of the same description, or is it annexed to larger farms?

You find generally that they have given it over to some relation or friend; and I think in nine cases out of ten it is a nominal transfer.

7647. Without the knowledge or permission of the landlord?

No; I have always insisted upon a ticket being brought from the agent of the property, to state that he or she had transferred the land.

7648. The object of that ticket was merely to establish the *bonâ fides* of the transaction?

Entirely so; it was the cessation of occupancy that I wished to ascertain.

7649. Have they manured extensively for these potatoes?

In the ordinary way. The whole energies of the people in that part of the country are directed to the accumulation of manure. Every cottage and every house and lane in the town has its manure pit; they have no sea-manure; they rely entirely upon the manure made upon the premises.

7650. Supposing a successful crop of potatoes to be produced, in what state do you expect that land to be for the succeeding crop?

Precisely the same as it has been in all other years; they take crop after crop of potatoes.

7651. Have those persons in the Union, whom you consider to be the best farmers, planted potatoes this year?

They have, very extensively.

7652. Then that sowing is not confined to the lower orders; but the lower orders have been encouraged in it by the upper orders?

By the example shown them by the upper orders.

7653. Does not the chance of the succeeding crop, under the circumstances you have described, much depend upon the power of accumulation of manure?

Very much.

7654. Has not part of the consequence of the famine been a greatly diminished number of pigs in the country?

Undoubtedly the pigs are very few.

7655. Have the circumstances of the Killarney Union been ever such as to compel

compel the Collectors to sell up the manure heaps of the smaller occupiers for rates?

I have never heard of an instance of that sort; I have never heard of such a seizure; if I heard of such a seizure being made, I should discountenance it myself.

7656. Do you not also conceive that the Poor Law Commissioners would discountenance it?

I am certain they would.

7657. What do you think the consequences would be upon a population like that with which you are acquainted, if the manure heaps of the smaller occupants were taken from them?

I think it would be ruinous upon them, because in land, with a constant cropping every year, with the same description of crop, it is only by excessive manuring that they can insure any crop whatever; and if you desire to make them destitute, you might as well take the produce of the land from them, as the means of raising the produce.

7658. Would not the necessary consequence of such a system be the diminution of the means of the country, the limitation of the food of the country, and the augmentation of the number of the destitute?

It would produce all those evils, there can be no doubt.

7659. When were you placed in charge of the Kenmare Union?

In October 1848.

7660. What was the condition of that Union at the time that you took charge of it?

When I arrived in that Union, I found that there was a very extreme pressure for relief.

7661. Will you state how it had been previously governed?

The Kenmare Union had been under Vice-Guardians from the preceding month of January. The Inspector who had been there was seized with fever in London, and I was sent down temporarily to take charge of the Union; he did not return to it, and it remained permanently under my charge. I found at the time that I got there, that the Vice-Guardians had not fully carried out the principle which I have always advocated, of making the Workhouse the test of destitution: they had kept upon the out-door list there 3,500 persons through the whole year. I made a revision of this out-door list, and I found that there were 201 cases upon the out-door relief list of persons who had no right there whatever; they had no authority whatever to be there. I was not satisfied with the way in which the measures had been conducted in the Union, and I recommended the Commissioners to remove these gentlemen to some other part, that I might commence a new system altogether in the Kenmare Union, similar to that which I had adopted in Cahirciveen; but, unfortunately, in the Kenmare Union I found the same vicious principles that had been followed in Cahirciveen had prevailed there in the same degree under the Board of Guardians; they had had a much longer growth; the plant was much stronger, and required more vigorous cutting. I arrived there at an unfortunate time, of very severe pressure of destitution; the people had not been taught to husband their means in the summer which had passed, and there was a great deal of real distress; there was also a very insubordinate spirit in the people, not only in the Workhouse, but outside; they were turbulent and insolent when I have been at night at the hotel, having sat all day in the Board-room admitting paupers, and taking every possible measure for their comfort; the hotel has been surrounded at night with from 300 to 500 persons, yelling, howling and threatening to smash the windows, unless they got relief. The Vice-Guardians have taken the people up to the Workhouse, kept them for the night, gave them their breakfast, and they would all discharge themselves instantly; sometimes the Vice-Guardians have been up till two or three o'clock in the morning. It was a very frightful state of things; they were without clothing, without money and without food. The Commissioners sent me down two very excellent gentlemen, of great experience, as Vice-Guardians; they aided me, and followed out my plans exactly. I increased the Workhouse accommodation from 500, which was what we then had, so that I can now accommodate 2,000, but I call it 1,800.

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7662. Can you tell us what the population of Kenmare is, is it 33,000?
It was 33,000, but I have reason to believe that the population does not exceed 30,000 at the present time.

7663. What is the valuation?
About 24,000*l.*

7664. The expenses up to September were 12,663*l.*?
Up to that time.

7665. And the rates collected during that period were 6,014*l.*?
Yes.

7666. You have stated that you have enlarged the Workhouse accommodation from 500 up to 1,800? What proportion of that number were you able to accommodate by additions similar to those which you have described in the other Unions?
None at the Workhouse; it was entirely by taking additional buildings that we were enabled to increase the accommodation; we made an additional day-room at the Workhouse, and hired dormitories in the town; these parties slept there; they were marched down to these dormitories in the town, and marched up again in the morning; we had sufficient day-room for them.

7667. Did you find, with respect to these buildings at Kenmare, as well as elsewhere, that you were enabled, by regulations, to make the Workhouse test as efficient when you were compelled to have recourse to other buildings, as you were in the Workhouse itself?
Perfectly the same, because they were all on the same books, the same register.

7668. But were you able to classify them, and to maintain the same discipline?
Exactly the same; I have one very large building there, which was a brewery, in which I have the whole of the children; the children amount to about 700 out of the entire number.

7669. You think it may be done; but is it not attended with some difficulty to enforce the same discipline in scattered buildings which you can with great ease enforce under one roof?
That is perfectly true; the children are easily managed under a separate management, because the schoolmaster and schoolmistress being with them, have them under their sole control, but the adult classes merely sleep out of the workhouse; the whole discipline of the Workhouse is carried on in the original building.

7670. There are no detached Workhouses in other Electoral Divisions?
None whatever.

7671. They are all at the central spot?
Yes.

7672. Should you feel the same confidence in the power of enforcing discipline in the detached houses, if you had not resorted to the plan of classifying the inmates?
We have no discipline in the detached houses.

7673. Supposing that each house had combined all the elements of the central house; should you then have felt the same confidence in the administration of the system, when you had removed the children into one place, probably the women into another, and so separated in different houses the different classes?
Certainly not; I very strongly opposed any buildings having that perfectly separate character, excepting for the children, because of the difficulty of management; it would require a complete staff of Workhouse officers for each separate establishment, the same as for the original one.

7674. From your observation of the character of the Irish people, have you any doubt that the discipline, order, regularity and cleanliness of the Workhouse, constituted part of the efficiency of the test?
I have no doubt that it is that very thing which deters a great many of them from coming into the house; it is the dread of cold water being applied to them, and clean clothing.

7675. Had

7675. Had not the cleanliness of the Workhouse been very much neglected previously to your coming to Kenmare by the Vice-Guardians?
It was in a very bad state.

7676. Supposing you had wholly detached Workhouses in remote parts of the Union, would you feel the same confidence in the application of the Workhouse test under such circumstances as where the whole of the Workhouse management is concentrated in the town of Kenmare?
I should not; the late Vice-Guardians were very anxious to have had a detached Workhouse about 17 miles from the town of Kenmare, at a place called Sneem, and I objected very strongly that we could not enforce the same discipline there, and that it could not receive the same supervision as in the town of Kenmare.

7677. Sneem is upon Mr. Bland's property?
Yes.

7678. It is in the lower part of Iveragh?
I believe in the barony of Dunkerron.

7679. What number of persons were receiving out-relief at the time you took charge of the Union?
There were about 3,500.

7680. What number are now receiving out-door relief?
I have a return which I received this morning from Kenmare.

7681. Will you have the goodness to tell us what number were receiving relief upon the 23d of January?
This is a report that I sent in; there is a note that there was a considerable increase on the out-door lists since the last return from which this was taken; this would relate to a fortnight before that time: "Able-bodied men in the Workhouse, 668; other classes in the Workhouse, 1,573: on out-door relief under the first section, 3,968; on out-door relief under sealed order, for all classes, except able-bodied men and their families, 1,031;" that makes a total of 7,240.

7682. And that would be applicable to the early part of January?
Yes.

7683. Will you now give us the last return, and will you give us the date of it?
The last return is for the 14th of April; the total number in the house upon the 14th of April was 1,905, and the total number of the out-door was 5,988; that made a total of 7,893; that is an increase of about 600.

7684. On which class?
I have not the classes here.

7685. Has the number of recipients of out-door relief increased?
Yes, nearly a thousand; but at the same time I would apprize your Lordships that out of those 5,988, there are not more than 30 able-bodied men, and those 30 able-bodied men, under particular circumstances, are employed, under sanitary measures, in cleansing the town of Kenmare, otherwise we should have those 30 persons and their families in the house.

7686. Then have you applied the test to its full extent to all able-bodied persons?
I have combated in every instance giving out-door relief to the able-bodied class; I have always combated that to every possible degree, because it has led to the greatest abuses by persons who have work, for example, getting on the out-door relief, and the farmers in the country pay very small wages to those persons.

7687. Have you found instances of that kind, in which the system of out-door relief has acted upon the wages of the recipient?
I have had many cases reported to me of that nature.

7688. Which you believe?
Which I believe; I met with an instance bearing upon that point only a few days ago; I was coming up from the town of Kenmare to the Workhouse, and a man

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a man was at work upon the road-side; there was something covered over, lying down behind a ditch that he was at work in; this was a coat, and below the coat some blue print appeared, which I knew to be the print of the Workhouse: he was asked, "What have you got there?" He said, "This is a child of mine." The Vice-Guardian who accompanied me, observed, "She has a very good frock; why have you covered her with your coat; because I was coming, I suppose?" "No, Sir; she was cold." She had actually got into the Workhouse by some surreptitious means; it was the fault of the Relieving Officer, who had got this child into the Workhouse without the parents. The man employing the labourer said, "It would be the greatest hardship to send that child out, because I am only paying this man so much a week wages." That came under my own observation, and I believe it to be common in the country, that men are actually getting employed, their employers giving them 2*d.* a day or 1*d.* a day in many instances, when they are getting out-door relief.

7689. In those cases where it so acts upon wages, have you any doubt whatever that the effect is injurious to the best and real interests of the poor themselves?

I can have no doubt of that whatever; it is a point that I have combated with the rate-payers and the farmers upon every possible occasion, telling them that they were themselves laying the foundation for their own ruin in giving these inadequate wages.

7690. In the wages that are given under the Land Improvement Act, of which, as you are aware, there is a considerable proportion applied in the Union of Kenmare, are not the wages kept up to a much higher point?

The wages given under the Land Improvement Act would enable every man with ordinary diligence, in that part of the country, to gain 10*d.*, and, with very little extra exertion, he might gain 1*s.* per diem; now, 10*d.* a day in that part of the country is very good wages, because every article of food is particularly cheap.

7691. Is the great article of food Indian meal?

Indian meal.

7692. Are you not aware that a considerable portion of the work done under the Land Improvement Act in that Union is done by means of task-work?

It is.

7693. Where task-work is given, are you of opinion that the full amount of wages which you describe may be easily obtained?

I can have no doubt of it; I have heard that, not only from our own officers, but from the agent of Mr. John Mahony, who was carrying on drainage there.

7694. Is that the case generally with all the proprietors in the Union who have carried on works there?

Precisely.

7695. Will not the general tendency of that be to raise the price of wages?

It ought to have that effect, but unfortunately the people abandoned this work. I had 13 persons on one day, who came from Mr. John Mahony's drainage to the Workhouse demanding relief; I asked, "Why are you not at work at the drainage?" They said that the weather was too wet and too cold, and that they did not like it, and they insisted upon getting into the Workhouse. In one or more of these cases I had a communication from the agent in writing, to say that these parties had taken task-work; that they had gone immediately to shop-keepers, got meal on the credit of the work, and that directly they had got the meal they had abandoned the work; they gave up the work, and came to the Workhouse.

7696. In relation to cases of that description, what, in your opinion, would be the consequence of the English system of out-door relief; even with moderate rations would people hold to the work, or prefer the out-door relief?

They would prefer the out-door relief, with the very smallest modicum of food.

7697. Taking the wages which you have stated, and the present price of Indian meal, which the Committee presume, in the absence of the potato, forms the

the main article of subsistence, do not those wages afford adequate means for supporting the average family of the workers?

Certainly, because you may buy the Indian meal at a penny a pound, and if a man gets his 10*d.* a day, there are ten pounds of meal; on the average, if a man consumes a pound and a half, judiciously cooked, it is as much as he can manage, and the children, of course, a smaller quantity.

7698. Do the Vice-Guardians endeavour to ascertain with strictness, when any persons apply for this sort of relief, whether they have the means of procuring work, or whether they are engaged upon any work?

That has been an instruction which I was very particular in giving them. What I laid down as a principle when I first came there was this, that any man who could obtain work within a reasonable distance of his house at the fair average wages of the country, was not an object of destitution.

7699. Either for out-door or in-door relief?

Either for out-door or in-door relief.

7700. Has not a considerable progress been made in applying that test; have not the present Vice-Guardians been enabled to apply that test to a greater degree than they did before?

There was some opposition offered to the doctrine which I laid down; there was a protest entered into by a gentleman there, that what I had laid down was not sound law; he laid down as a principle that any person applying at the Workhouse was entitled to be admitted there to receive the relief without any further questions being asked; this operated injuriously, I have no doubt, because it was a reverend gentleman that made use of this expression, and it was very widely disseminated through the country, and it is possible that many persons abandoned their work on that very account, and came to the Workhouse.

7701. In the instances which you have mentioned, of their leaving the drainage, were the men admitted into the Workhouse?

I directed the Guardians on my own responsibility not to do so.

7702. Taking the price which you have stated, of Indian meal, and of the ordinary price of potato food, do you conceive that there is a much larger cost in supporting a family now upon the Indian meal than there was at the ordinary price of potatoes?

I think not, because the ordinary price of potatoes in that part of the country formerly was 3*d.* to 3½*d.* for the 21 pounds; now, it requires at least five pounds of potatoes to equal a pound of meal; therefore you will find that the expense of the potato, in fact, was rather heavier than the price of Indian meal as it now stands.

7703. Supposing a change to take place, and the Indian meal to become the main article of subsistence, would it not be necessary, in order to realize that change for the working classes, that they were paid their wages in money?

That would be an absolute necessity; but at the same time you would have to change the whole system of culture of the country, because the potato is not a crop that you can store and send away; it must be consumed upon the spot.

7704. Would not also the Indian meal be a more certain food than a crop that is open to so many vicissitudes as the potato?

It would be a more certain food, but you are dependent upon a foreign supply.

7705. Is it your opinion, both in relation to the greater certainty and uniformity of price, and to the introduction of wages as a remuneration of labour, that the change from potato to Indian meal, if effected, would be advantageous to the country?

I could have no doubt that if you destroyed that dependence of the people upon the potato, you would improve their social and moral condition very greatly.

7706. There is a great disposition, the Committee collect from your former evidence, on the part of the people themselves to revert to the potato crop, and to trust to it even with all the discouragements which experience ha produced; is not that the case?

They are completely wedded to the old system, and it is nothing but the hand

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of Providence, by destroying the potato, I believe, that will ever wean them from their reliance upon it.

7707. What effect, in your judgment, is produced by a system of out-door relief upon the cultivation of the potato; does it not ensure to the party a protection against the failure, and encourage him thereby to grow potatoes in the confidence that he will be supported if the potato crop fails?

I think that is one of the effects of out-door relief; it would produce that effect; it would be rather remote in its operation; but I think it would have a tendency to that effect.

7708. Take the case of the growth of potatoes, which you have described; do you think that the same planting of potatoes in the year 1849 would have taken place in that country, if it were not for the confidence felt by the smaller occupiers, that in case of failure, they have in the local rates a resource to fall back upon?

I cannot answer that in the affirmative; I think that they would have planted potatoes to the same extent had there been no out-door relief.

7709. Has there been the same disposition in the Kenmare Union to plant potatoes again that you have described in the Killarney Union?

Precisely the same.

7710. To the same extent?

Perhaps rather to a larger proportionate extent.

7711. You have mentioned that in the Killarney Union there were no facilities afforded by sea-manure?

None.

7712. Are you not of opinion that in the Kenmare Union the facilities which are notoriously afforded by sea-manure, have contributed materially to the necessary increase of the population?

There can be no doubt of that, because I suppose that that river is more fertile with sea-weed than probably any other port of the west coast of Ireland; it is inexhaustible; the parties collect the sea-weed to an enormous quantity, on both sides of the river; they get immense crops from very small plots of land by continual dressings of the land one after the other; the consequence is, that a quarter of an acre there, will support a man, his wife and two children; persons holding an acre divide it into four; they have been impressed with the idea that they have a certainty of tenure which they look to very strongly, and every man thinks that he can let and sub-let there as he likes, entirely from the facility of getting the sea-manure and coral sand to put upon the land, and a very small quantity of land will support them.

7713. Has it not been found the custom in that country for tenants who are under a contract not to subdivide their land, and not to underlet, nevertheless to effect the same object by paying wages in the shape of an allotment of an acre or a smaller portion of land?

I am informed that that has been the case to a considerable extent.

7714. And on such allotments, does not that kind of cultivation take place to a great extent which you have described?

It does.

7715. In case the allotment system, and the con-acre system is totally thrown aside, which has been hitherto used as a mode of payment to the labourer, will it not be necessary that a larger amount of money should be put in circulation in Ireland?

To pay money wages of course money must be procured; and, again, there must be an improved cultivation of the land that would otherwise be let in allotments by the immediate lessor of that land, to enable him to pay those wages. The potato crop is not a saleable crop; in fact, then it would come exactly to the same principle, that if you pay those men money wages, you must sell the potatoes to enable you to do so.

7716. We are supposing the potatoes to have disappeared, and that the people are to be fed for the future upon Indian corn, or some cereal food; that they are to be paid in wages, and with their wages they are to purchase this food. Under those

those circumstances, will not a larger amount of money be necessary to be put in circulation in order to meet that case?

Certainly; there can be no doubt that a larger amount of money must come into circulation to pay those wages.

7717. If it does not, will it be possible to give employment to the labouring classes, and will it be possible for them to obtain food?

We must take into consideration the particular locality to which I am now referring, which is in my own part of the country; the land there is not capable of producing anything but potatoes. You cannot have recourse to a grain crop; then the other alternative would be, that you must turn it into grazing farms; then will the produce of these grazing farms realize sufficient in itself, in a foreign market, to enable you to pay money wages? that is the point.

7718. Would not the land produce other roots; though it might not produce cereal crops, might it not produce other roots, such as turnips or parsnips?

Those would be liable to the same objection, in my opinion, as potatoes, because they are not crops that you could export; they must be consumed upon the spot.

7719. Supposing that the labourer is, for the future, not to be paid by an allotment of land, will it not be necessary that a larger amount of money should be in the country in order to enable the employer to pay the labourer his daily wages?

There can be no doubt that that would be required; the question comes relatively: we are to ascertain what is the circulating medium now, and whether that circulating medium is locked up in savings' banks, or in other places.

7720. Is it your opinion that there is at present a sufficient amount of money in circulation in the three Unions with which you are acquainted?

I am not able to give an opinion upon my own judgment; it would be a very complicated question for me to go into; it is not in my line of study.

7721. Should you be prepared, under present circumstances, to withdraw from the Guardians their discretionary power of giving out-door relief?

No; I think that the discretionary power is a very wise provision of the law; I think that if you once crippled the Vice-Guardians or Guardians in any way, you would destroy their efficiency. I think that that efficiency depends a great deal upon their having a discretionary power; you can rule them very powerfully by it, because you can say, "If you use this discretionary power improperly, you are open to censure;" but if you tie them down to a particular line, and say, "You shall not have a discretionary power," whatever extent of destitution comes upon the country, they will immediately throw it back upon the Government, and will say, "You have ordered us to do so and so; we are not free agents;" therefore, I think that a discretionary power in the Board of Guardians is a very wise provision.

7722. Do you apply that evidence to the ordinary state of things, or to a state of things when the country is suffering under the destitution of famine?

I apply it to the present time.

7723. Were you acquainted with the administration of the Poor Law before the system of out-door relief was introduced, either under the law itself, or through the medium of the Public Works Act or the Relief Act?

I cannot say that I had any practical experience of the operation of the Poor Law, but it is a subject to which I paid a good deal of attention in my reading.

7724. In the ordinary state of things should you think that the out-door system of relief was one that ought to make part of the permanent law of the land?

I think, so far as regards those under the 1st section, that is, infirm cases, and those in extreme old age, that they might be legitimately relieved at all times, under ordinary circumstances, out of the Workhouse, but no other class.

7725. Where limited orders for out-door relief are given, not extending to the general order embracing able-bodied persons, have you not found as incident to the very limitations, fraudulent practices at once introduced, so as to bring persons under those limitations?

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You will find in all these remote districts, that many attempts are made to commit fraud, and it requires a great deal of vigilance to prevent them; but I think that a more wholesome state of feeling is coming round in the country generally; I have always made it a rule in my administration, limited as it was, that in any detection of fraud, punishment should be certain and immediate. I have brought about by that means a state of things in which there is less fraud and a less spirit of insubordination. I worked upon their fears, and it would require a long course of perseverance in moral and industrial training to produce the same effect from a higher source of feeling; I think the people are perfectly capable of it, but it would require a course of time to do so. This entirely refers to the in-door relief, and cannot be applied to the out-door with the same effect.

7726. Take the cases in which out-door relief is given, we will say to widows with more than one child, or to widows specifically as such; have you found instances of persons claiming as widows, or persons even producing children, which there was every reason to apprehend were not their own, but were produced to bring them under the qualification of the law?

I found two or three instances of that description of a woman claiming to be a widow whose husband was actually at work, and receiving wages; but I immediately directed proceedings against the party under the clause of the Act, and had him imprisoned for three months.

7727. Have you had any cases come before you in which women deserted by their husbands, either by emigration, or by going to another part of the country, have applied for relief as widows?

A very great many; but I never authorized out-door relief to any one of that class; I laid it down as a principle, that that class were the last that should be discharged from the Workhouse to the out-door relief.

7728. In the cases in which the fraud was detected, of course punishment would follow; but is there not, as incident to that species of relief, a liability to that fraud which, taking into account the habits of the Irish people, is a liability dangerous to the administration of the Poor Law?

There can be no doubt that the people are very prone to take advantage of every possible loop-hole to impose upon officers in every department in order to obtain the relief. I have no doubt that there have been very many simulated cases of persons claiming to be widows who were not widows, and different abuses of the same sort; but I do not think that they are very extensive, at least in the Unions which I have had under my charge.

7729. Is there less sense of shame in cases where such frauds are detected in Ireland than there would be among the same class of persons in England?

I am sorry to say that there is very little shame among the lower class in Ireland.

7730. Have you been able to trace any difficulties thrown upon the administration of in-door relief to the expectation created in the minds of the people that they could drive or compel or induce the Guardians to have recourse to out-door relief?

That has been of very frequent occurrence; and, indeed, from what took place in the Kenmare Union, when I first took charge last year, it was apparent that the object which the people had in view was to swamp all in-door accommodation, so as to force the Guardians to give universal out-door relief.

7731. Has that been carried to a considerable extent?

It was carried to a very considerable extent.

7732. And nothing but firmness and steadiness enabled you to surmount it?

That was all.

7733. You had very great difficulty?

Very great difficulty; in fact, threats of personal violence upon many occasions.

7734. Did they combine for the purpose?

Evidently.

7735. What confidence should you feel, taking the ordinary class of elected and

and *ex-officio* Guardians, in their power of their resisting that pressure, and overthrowing the combination upon which it depended?

It would a great deal depend upon the composition of the Board. In the Killarney Board, which I look upon as a superior Board, I have every confidence that they would; and they have invariably set their faces entirely against it, and assumed a most determined attitude. But in such cases as Cahirciveen and Kenmare, or Boards of the same description, I could not have that confidence.

7736. Are there found within the Kenmare Union the materials for forming such a Board?

The material is different in the Kenmare Union. The elected Guardians who did attend, I am informed, were not of the best class of persons; and those who were of the best class never attended. In fact, the whole accounts, and everything connected with the Union, were in the most abject state of confusion that it was possible to imagine. I do not suppose there was ever any Union in such a state of confusion as the Kenmare Union was, which was caused entirely by the *ex-officio* gentlemen of the county having neglected their duty, and the elected Board never having attended to business in a proper manner.

7737. Which have you found, the elected Guardians or the *ex-officio* Guardians, the most inclined to give general out-door relief?

As I have observed, I have only had three Unions under my charge, and I never saw the elected Board in the Kenmare Union. There were Vice-Guardians when I was appointed to it. In the Cahirciveen Union the elected Board were, I think, only in existence three or four weeks after my arrival, or five weeks at the outside. I had sufficient experience of them in that time to show that they were quite inefficient for their duty; I could place no reliance upon them. In the Killarney Board, as I have said, they were of a superior class.

7738. You have stated, that in the Cahirciveen and Killarney Workhouses you introduced a system of industrial occupation for the inmates?

It is now in course of introduction.

7739. Are you doing anything of the same kind in the Kenmare Workhouse?

Kenmare, I am sorry to say, is some months behind Cahirciveen, or I am afraid I may say years behind Cahirciveen. We are now so far commencing that we have a supply of meal and a supply of flax in the house. I have also got 60 spinning-wheels at work with women; that is just a commencement. We have tailors employed; the men's clothing and boys' clothing is made in the house, and all the women's clothing is made in the house; but I have not yet been able to introduce a general system of organization, such as I hope to do in the course of time.

7740. But you contemplate the same course there, including the capstan-mill?

I have got great intentions before me, if I am enabled to carry them out.

7741. You at present have not had more than three or four months to organize any thing of the sort?

Only four months.

7742. But do you think that there is any reason why you should not ultimately be enabled to introduce these arrangements with the same success as at Cahirciveen, where you commenced at a much earlier period?

There is no reason why we should not.

7743. Is there much repugnance on the part of paupers generally to work?

They do not like it generally. The great difficulty is with the male adults in the house; that is always the most difficult class.

7744. We find that in the Report of the 23d of January 1849, the debt in the Kenmare Union was at that time reported as 5,500*l.*; can you tell us what the debt is at the present time?

The debt exceeds 8,000*l.*, and it is a weight upon the Union which paralyses every effort. I was directed by the Commissioners to stretch the credit of the Union to its utmost possible extent, and I induced one contractor alone to supply meal to the extent of 4,000*l.*, upon the pledge of being paid a proportionate part out of the rate in course of collection. Now it unfortunately happens in this Union that the Government are giving aid to a certain extent, but we are bound

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in the weekly estimate to deduct the whole amount of poor-rate that has been collected, and the difference is set down as the price of food to meet the expenditure of the week. The consequence is, that these contractors, who have supplied food upon the credit of the rate, are now thrown overboard, and it is bringing discredit upon myself, and bringing discredit upon the Vice-Guardians, because we pledged ourselves, as gentlemen, that they should be paid out of the produce of that rate as collected.

7745. Even supposing that means were provided to meet the current expenditure of the Kenmare Union, from the present time to harvest, could you rely upon a satisfactory administration of the Poor Law in that district, with such an amount of debt remaining unprovided for?

I could not.

7746. Is it not the case that hitherto you have escaped from what has occurred in other Unions, namely, legal proceedings?

Yes.

7747. Have you any confidence that you can continue long to escape legal proceedings, if even, having money enough to meet your current expenses, you have no means to meet the amount of debt which has been contracted?

The only hope that we could have of escaping such proceedings is in the extreme poverty of the Workhouse, because it is devoid of clothing, devoid of utensils, and very deficient in bedding; therefore in any legal proceedings that could be taken, if they seized the whole of the effects in the Workhouse, they would not pay the law proceedings, let alone the debt; consequently I think that our poverty is our best protection under those circumstances.

7748. We find that it was calculated in the month of January that a sum of 9,500*l.* would be required for the maintenance of the poor up to the 20th of August next, before which time they do not consider that any resources from the next harvest will be available?

I believe that is quoted from my own report.

7749. It is from the report of the Vice-Guardians. How much do you anticipate will be the expense from hence to the 20th of August?

I do not think it will come up to that amount, because, by very strict revision of the relief lists, we have not that number which we expected. We calculated that we should have 10,000 persons upon the relief list. Now at the present time we have less than 8,000, and I do not think there will be any very material addition to that number; therefore there will be a diminution upon that sum. But I think that is not exactly the sum which I calculated upon; I think that my calculation went somewhat beyond that.

7750. Can you form any approximate estimate (always admitting that such an estimate can only be an approximation) of what the probable wants of the Union will be up to the period named of the next harvest, say the 20th of August, and what the probable resources of the Union will be within itself?

Provided that the food does not increase in price?

7751. Exactly so?

The present expenses of the Workhouse, with our present out-door relief, are about 320*l.* a week; therefore we may take 13 weeks at 320*l.*

7752. That does not carry us to August, does it?

No; it would take 18 weeks at the least; there would be 5,760*l.*, we may say 6,000*l.*

7753. What do you anticipate as the probable receipt of rates between this and August?

I think we may collect 2,000*l.*

7754. So that there will be a deficiency of 4,000*l.* in addition to a debt of 8,000*l.*?

Yes.

7755. We need not ask you whether under those financial circumstances the Union of Kenmare would be able to bear any additional taxation, in the shape of a rate, to be applied more generally?

I think not.

7756. Supposing

7756. Supposing the present extended planting of potatoes, which you have described, to fail in the next harvest, as it has failed in the harvest preceding, what do you think will be the condition of that Union?

Utter ruin; there can be no alternative; the people will be left entirely without means of support; they rely entirely upon the potato, and if that be lost, they will be in an utter state of destitution.

7757. To a certain extent the mountains of Kerry are used for the rearing of young cattle, are they not, and have been?

Yes.

7758. Are you enabled to state whether that description of stock is as numerous as it used to be?

It is not so numerous; I cannot say exactly at the present moment; last year it was not so numerous; but the sales have not been so great in the country for the last five months as is usual at the corresponding period of the year; consequently there may be a greater quantity of cattle actually in the country at the present moment than there was at the corresponding period of last year, on account of people not having been able to sell their cattle.

7759. But, supposing the present prices to continue, the lowness which you have described as being unexampled, and that the rate which you have described as being necessary to be collected within the interval is collected, do you expect that that rate will be realized without the sale of a considerable portion of that stock?

I think that the rate will be collected from the butter, and not from the cattle. I think that as the butter comes into the market, it will be from the proceeds of the butter, which is all paid for in cash, that we shall collect the rate.

7760. In that event, in your judgment, will not it amount to something approaching an extinction of the means of paying other demands on the part of the smaller rate-payers?

No doubt it will encroach very heavily upon those means, because we have looked upon the butter in the Kenmare Union and the Cahirciveen Union as being just about equivalent to the rental. In fact, the butter has been looked upon by the tenant as the rent, the same as the pig would in Tipperary in former times; and the land is all let out by cow's grass, not by measurement, and it is valued according to the cow's grass; therefore, if you once trench upon those means, namely, the proceeds of the butter, you must, of course, touch upon the proprietor, because that which went to the immediate lessor, must go, a portion of it at least, to the payment of the poor-rates.

7761. Are not the county rates a considerable burden?

They have been very heavy in the last year; I did not hear exactly what the assessment was, it not falling under my own observation.

7762. The county rates of Kerry appear to have increased, from the year 1785 to the year 1845, from 5,500*l.* in the year to 34,000*l.* in the year?

There was an enormous increase.

7763. Are they not felt at the present moment, taking into account the increased pressure of the poor-rate and the low price of produce, as a very severe burden upon the country?

It is a very extraordinary feature in that part of the country, that I have never heard any particular complaint about the county cess; and I believe it has always been paid most punctually and regularly until the last assessment.

7764. How is it now paid?

Now they are complaining very much. At the last assizes at Tralee the subject was brought before the grand jury, and the complaints were very heavy that they could not collect it.

7765. Would not the means of meeting that burden, as well as the burden of rent, be greatly trenched upon by the appropriation of the proceeds of the butter, which is the main produce for the discharge of the current rate, and making any provision for the arrear?

There can be no doubt it would trench very considerably upon those means which have been hitherto appropriated for the payment of rent.

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7766. Do you consider that it would produce a considerable effect upon the means of employing labour in agricultural purposes?

The employment of labour down in the part of the country with which I am connected has always been very limited; there has been no labour, in fact, in the country; it is rarely that any of the farmers there, being all of the same class, employ any labourers beyond their own children.

7767. But even taking the small class employing their own children, if the produce of their farms is liable to an impending demand, such as you have described, resulting from the debt of the Union and the current charge of the Union, do you think that there will be the same disposition to cultivate on the part of those persons?

That is taking a prospective view.

7768. Prospectively entirely?

I think that they will continue to cultivate the potato as long as they can, but not any other description of crop.

7769. In your former evidence you stated that potatoes must be consumed on the spot in the district; will you give the reason why potatoes cannot be exported from that part of Ireland to the London and other markets, as potatoes are exported from the North of England and from Scotland to these markets?

I could probably enter rather largely into that question, because I am intimately acquainted with Scotland. They produce the potato in Scotland at a lower rate than in Ireland on the Western coast. They will produce potatoes in Aberdeenshire at 2*s.* a barrel; they never sold for a less price in the West part of Kerry; they can be brought to the London market that short distance at a much less expense than they could bring them from the West coast of Ireland; but I have alluded particularly to the fact, that the potato is not an article that can be stored. It is not like wheat, which can be kept from year to year; it all perishes in the month of June or July.

7770. Are you aware of any attempts having been made to convert the potato into flour, and store it for the purpose of keeping?

No, I think not, not in the West part of Ireland; I have never heard of any attempt of that sort; I have heard, in fact, that they were so improvident of the potato in former times, that when they have brought cart-loads of potatoes to market, and did not get a sale for them, they have actually thrown them down, and left them there.

7771. You probably know that that has been tried, and strongly recommended at different times, viz. the storing of flour made out of potatoes?

Yes.

7772. That they preserve them as they do in parts of the North of England, by putting them into what they call potato-pie, and burying them?

They formerly adopted that system before the potato blight; but at the present time those that have them, if they attempted to leave them out of doors, would be all robbed immediately.

7773. Since the famine?

Since the famine.

7774. Have you received extraneous assistance in the Kenmare Union?

We have received assistance.

7775. And you contemplate the necessity of receiving more assistance?

I am afraid a very extensive assistance must be had, or the people will die of starvation.

7776. Have you at all formed any opinion as to the best mode by which that assistance could be supplied?

I think that it would be rather stepping out of my province to give an opinion upon such a measure, as to whether it should be a rate in aid, or what the taxation should be; I would rather confine myself, in giving an answer, to the appropriation of it than enter into the manner in which the fund should be raised; it is a broad question, that would probably lead into a discussion which would not fall immediately within my province as a public officer.

7777. The

7777. The question was merely put in case you had formed any distinct and definite opinion upon the point?

I have not.

7778. Should you feel any great expectation of the collection of a rate in aid in the Unions of Kenmare or Cahirciveen?

I certainly should not, because they would both expect to be aided from the rate in aid.

7779. You were understood to state, in reference to one of the districts to which your evidence referred, that you considered that if there were a higher price for cattle, many of the farmers would be disposed to realize their capital, and to quit the country?

I think the feeling is very general to that effect; the emigration from Kerry has been very limited as yet; but I think that there are a great many, both in the Killarney and in the Kenmare Union, who, could they get the ordinary price for their cattle, would abandon their farms, and leave the country.

7780. Those are of the description of farmers?

Farmers.

7781. Have you been able to ascertain in any instances (you have stated that the emigration is as yet limited) whether the accounts which have been received from the emigrants who have already quitted the country, have been of a nature to encourage those who remain, and who have the means to quit the country?

I think they have been encouraged to quit the country by remittances that have been made to them; remittances have been made to a very considerable amount (I am not prepared to say exactly to what amount) to different parties in the Union, but I think there is a feeling that they would go anywhere rather than remain in Ireland at the present time; they think that any change which they possibly could make would be for the better.

7782. To what cause do you attribute that great desire of quitting the country, and the indisposition to remain?

I think the failure of their great staple article of food has been a means of dissatisfying the people with the country, and the uncertainty of the crop for the future.

7783. Do you think that the apprehension of increased and increasing rates of taxation has had the effect of stimulating the same desire on their part?

I made some inquiries from parties best informed upon that point, and if we look to the statistics of the Poor Law, we find that, although there is a very heavy rate, nominally, upon the tenant, yet if you take the difference between the rental paid and the valuation, the tenant pays but a very small proportion of the rate, that the greater part falls upon the landlord; because if a 3*s.* rate be made upon a property, the tenant deducts from the rent 1*s.* 6*d.* for every 1*l.* of value of rent that he pays; he only pays in each pound upon which he is valued under the Poor Law, therefore the great weight of the poor-rate must fall upon the landlord, and does not operate, I think, so heavily upon the tenant to induce him to quit his holdings as may be generally supposed upon a cursory view of the question.

7784. Even making an allowance for that, when you consider that the rate is already augmented in the proportion of from 300,000*l.* a year up to 1,600,000*l.* a year, and that it seems to admit of an undefined increase, have you any doubt that the apprehension of an augmented rate must indispose persons to remain in a country which is subject to that rate?

I think it would have that effect upon persons of greater intelligence than the ordinary run of persons; but I do not think that the farmers generally, that is, the ordinary farmers, we will say those having 10 or 15 acres of land, and paying rents of 15*l.* or 20*l.* a year, enter into that calculation so much, from what I have observed of them.

7785. Supposing the potato failure to continue in those parts of Ireland with which you are acquainted in those Unions, are there any districts in which you foresee any difficulty in supporting a population bred upon potatoes, upon cereal food?

Only taking into consideration that it would require nearly three times the

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extent of land to produce grain to support the people that it will potatoes, then we come to the point how far the arable land is capable of supporting the population. That the population is decreasing most rapidly there can be no doubt, not only by deaths, which are very numerous, but likewise by there being no births; there are two operating causes. We may look very minutely into the case now about the births; I take the infant class in Workhouses; in Kenmare Union we have 75 infant cases; that is, children under two years of age. Now, I know that a great proportion of those are beyond two years of age; I know that many of them are nearly four years of age; but the mothers disguise the ages of the children on purpose to obtain the milk and the bread which are given for the infants; they keep the children at the breast till this time, on purpose to keep them with them; but of those 75, I do not believe that there are 35 who are really under two years of age.

7786. Without contemplating the fearful alternative of a decrease of population by death, or the extreme suffering of the population, which may show itself in the diminution of births, and the power of rearing children, are there not along those shores with which you are familiar, districts in which it is difficult to anticipate that a population bred upon the potato food can, within their own district find the means of support upon cereal food?

They cannot.

7787. It is impossible?

Totally impossible, unless a greater quantity of land be brought under cultivation.

7788. In many of these districts the subdivision of land has gone to an almost infinitesimal degree; do you contemplate the possibility of passing from potato cultivation, in the old style in Ireland, to a cereal cultivation without improved agriculture and without a better applied rotation of crops?

It is totally impossible.

7789. Is it possible to attain that object of improved agriculture, and a better rotation of crops maintaining that infinite subdivision of land, and that number of pauper tenants?

I do not think that you possibly can; I think that those very small holdings must be abandoned, and that they must be thrown into the hands of persons holding a larger extent of land.

7790. Assuming the continued failure of the potato crop, the necessity of improved cultivation, in order to get an abundant cereal crop, and the impossibility of getting that improved cultivation, with the infinite subdivision of land and the bad farming that at present exist, is there any alternative that suggests itself to you in relation to those districts, except the death of the parties, if they are left within them, or their removal to another place where their labour will be more required and better remunerated?

There can be no doubt that in a great many parts of the extreme West of Ireland (I am now alluding to Kerry) the population must be removed from the land to leave sufficient land to support the people, even under an improved cultivation, because an improved cultivation can only be the result of time; land having been impaired, it must be the result of time, and some years must elapse. Then, if you take away this class of persons, that is, the able-bodied class of persons, and you leave the aged and infirm as an incubus upon the land, instead of being a benefit, it is an absolute curse.

7791. But if it has been shown upon evidence that the best emigration which can take place is not of the able-bodied simply, but small families of able-bodied, accompanied by the young or by the old, in a proportion not greater than the able-bodied can support, is not that precisely the emigration which would most resemble that which you recommend?

There can be no doubt of that; that is the emigration which I have advocated myself.

7792. That you should remove small families?

That you should take small families, but not to take the adult class away solely.

7793. Take such emigration as may take place now by the unassisted effort of

of the people themselves, must it not necessarily be confined to that class which you have already described, as only awaiting a sufficient price for their cattle to quit the country at their own expense?

I think the class who are now going out by assistance from their friends on the other side, are able-bodied fathers of families; they get a remittance probably of 4*l.* or 5*l.*, and leave their wives and families at home; they must be then supported by the Poor Law. I never will support these parties outside; but being destitute cases, I am bound to take them into the Workhouse; those parties proceed to America immediately, and probably they are not heard of for months, and a great many when they get out there marry again; they forget that they have wives and families at home, and their wives and families remain as permanent paupers in the Workhouse.

7794. Emigration of that class is prejudicial to the social condition of the country?

Entirely.

7795. In the evidence which is before us, both as relating to Connaught and other parts of Ireland, it is stated that provident, energetic farmers, those who possess capital enough to speculate upon their capital, and upon their industry in a foreign country, are quitting many districts of Ireland. Is that emigration, in your judgment, one that will lead to good or to evil?

I think it must inevitably lead to evil, because it impoverishes the country, by taking the capital and intellect from it; the very class that you wish to retain are expatriating themselves.

7796. If any class withdraw from the country a larger proportion of capital than they withdraw proportionately numbers, must not the power of employment and paying wages diminish in the country by reason of the emigration?

Undoubtedly you take away the best qualities; the best prop of every country is the middle class, who are now quitting Ireland; it is only upon that class that you can depend for the stability of the country; and I look upon every individual taking himself away possessing capital and intelligence as a positive loss, and in a double degree, because he leaves behind him those who are a dead weight upon the land.

7797. Do you not conceive that in many instances which have come within your knowledge in the Unions of Cahirciveen and Kenmare, the net produce of the country, or, in other words, the rent, is endangered in many cases, is diminished in others, and may be entirely lost from the excess of population which at present exists upon the land?

I do not think that in the Cahirciveen Union the population is excessive.

7798. Because of the mountains?

Yes, it is a mountainous country, and I do not think the population is excessive. Now there are parts of the Kenmare Union where the population was very excessive; in this part which I have alluded to, great inducements were held out to the people by a very liberal landlord reducing rents; in fact, he is stated to have allowed the privilege of tenant right in its widest application. Now, as no other landlord in the country followed the same principle, it was holding out a premium to persons to congregate upon his land. If all the gentlemen in the country had combined together, and said, "We will follow the same system," this event would not have happened; but there being one particular district where these advantages were said to be offered, of course every person wanting a quarter of an acre went there; the consequence was, that in one Electoral Division alone I took from the rate-books 95 cases of persons who had taken small holdings, as subholders of 4*l.* and under, and many of these have three or four tenants, and I am informed that tenants there are absolutely enjoying profit-rents of from 50*l.* to 80*l.* at 100*l.* rental.

7799. Anticipating the continued failure of the potato crop, and looking beyond what may be due to humanity in the mere sustentation of paupers, and looking further to the removal of pauperism, are there not many districts within your knowledge in which the extinction of pauperism cannot be expected to take place without the emigration of a certain proportion of the population?

I fully concur in that.

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7800. Take the other alternative; supposing the potato again to become prolific, and to be again relied upon by the people, without any improvement in their habits, or change in their social condition, do you look forward with any expectation or confidence to any result but a recurrence at some future period of the same calamities under which we are now labouring?

I firmly believe myself that the potato blight merely hastened a crisis that every reflective man, having a knowledge of Ireland, must have foreseen; and that if the potato succeeded again, it would bear along with it a progressive state of moral and physical degradation.

7801. Then do you not consider that this very crisis and this great exigency in which the country is placed affords means and facilities for improving the permanent condition of the country?

I think the most favourable opportunity has presented itself that ever was presented in any country for giving great remedial measures to the whole social condition of Ireland, and which could not have been brought about under any other circumstances than those involving so great a calamity as that which has fallen upon the country.

7802. Have you any other observations or suggestions to make with respect to general measures that might improve the condition of Ireland?

I have confined my observations generally to the practical working of the Poor Law, and would prefer giving an opinion as to the effect of alterations in points of detail than on the principle of any great and comprehensive measure introduced by those whose judgment is so far superior to my own.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till Friday next, One o'clock.

Die Veneris, 27° Aprilis 1849.

The LORD STEWARD in the Chair.

Colonel WILLIAM AUGUSTUS CLARKE is called in, and further examined as follows :

7803. HAVE you had occasion to observe any deficiency of power for maintaining discipline within the Workhouses from the want of sufficient means of punishment?

I have. It is a great subject of complaint that the power of the Guardians to inflict punishment in the house is very inadequate to keep the people in a proper state of subordination. I have also observed a great unwillingness on the part of benches of Magistrates in remote districts to convict persons and send them to the county gaol: in the first place, a great expense is entailed upon the county; and, in the second, they do not like to mix themselves up in Poor Law matters judicially; in consequence, many persons escape who ought to be punished. Another great objection is, that the punishment inflicted in the gaol is, in fact, no punishment whatever to a pauper; the scale of dietary is so superior, that they are actually better off in gaol than in the Workhouse. Now, I would very strongly suggest, not that the Board of Guardians should not have increased powers; I would have the Magistrates to adjudicate in all those cases of insubordination, but that the punishment should be carried out in the Workhouse. I think it would do away, in a great measure, with the reluctance of the Magistrates to convict under the Poor Law, and the expense of sending to the county gaol; and I think that punishment carried out in the house would have a more salutary effect, as being present under the eye and observation of the parties, than sending them to the county gaol.

7804. What sort of punishment do you contemplate being inflicted in the house?

Solitary confinement and extra work.

7805. Would not the punishment of solitary confinement incur great additional expense, and require a great deal more room than could be conveniently allowed in the Workhouses?

I think that if you once established a system of solitary confinement, the very example would have so powerful an effect, that you would have few cases of insubordination.

7806. In relation to boys, do not you think that the species of corporal punishment which Magistrates are now authorized to administer would have a salutary effect upon them, rather than solitary confinement?

I am certain it would upon the younger classes, that is, for boys under 15.

7807. To whom would you give the power of awarding such punishment in the Workhouse?

To the bench of Magistrates.

7808. Do you mean those Magistrates who might attend at the Workhouse as *ex-officio* Guardians, or do you mean that the case should be adjourned to the next Petty Sessions?

It should be brought before the Petty Sessions in precisely the same way as it is now, but the punishment awarded should be carried out in the Workhouse, instead of being carried out in the county gaol.

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7809. Then you do not think that it would be expedient to give a summary power to the Magistrates who attend at the Workhouse in the capacity of *ex-officio* Guardians?

I think that would be unnecessary, because the *ex-officio* Guardians could at all times form themselves into a Court of Petty Session; therefore I would rather give the power to the Court of Petty Session, than to them in the character of Guardians.

7810. You are aware that the Petty Sessions are generally held once a fortnight, and therefore a case might occur a considerable period, say 10 or 12 days, previous to the next Petty Sessions?

In the Cahirciveen Union and the Kenmare Union, the Petty Sessions are only held once a month.

7811. In that case, is it your opinion that it would not be expedient for the Magistrates to act in the Workhouse, but that the case should be adjourned to the next Petty Sessions?

I would go as far as this, that a stipendiary Magistrate and any other Magistrate can hold a court of Petty Sessions at any time; a special Petty Session.

7812. You would have special Petty Sessions for this particular purpose?

I would; I have had a good deal of conversation with the stipendiary Magistrate for that district, that is Mr. Dillon, and he fully concurs with me in my view of the case; he has always been most anxious to give every aid to the operation of the law; and he has told me, that at any time when we wanted cases adjudged, he himself would go and have a special Petty Session; but I should be very loth to have it supposed that the Board of Guardians were to be constituted into a Court of Petty Session, because it would then make the Workhouse into a sort of house of correction for offences that might be committed outside, which I think would be very objectionable in principle.

7813. Could not you limit it to offences committed within the walls of the Workhouse?

Yes, that is my object; it is to preserve the discipline of the house.

7814. Would not there be expense incurred for the summons, and so forth?

There would be no more expense entailed by the summons being issued in this manner, than there would under the present system; the only difference would be, the certainty of the punishment, and the example that would be set in the view of the inmates of the house, because a summons must issue in the present instance to bring them before the Court of Petty Sessions; and if it be necessary to issue a summons, it would not entail more expense in the one manner than it would in the other.

7815. Do not you think that a summary punishment is always productive of better effect than a punishment which is delayed for a considerable time after the offence?

The promptitude of the punishment I look upon as the greatest advantage that can possibly accrue, because punishment deferred for some time does not produce the same effect.

7816. Have you had occasion to know any cases, in the districts with which you have been connected, where buildings occupied for public purposes, but paying rent to individuals, have been rated?

It is a very curious point of law, and it led to an appeal to the Court of Queen's Bench. I think it is under the 63d section of the Irish Poor Relief Act that it is laid down, that any person deriving profit from buildings let for public purposes shall be rated as the occupier; but by the decision upon an appeal that was made to the Assistant Barrister, that was overruled, and it was then carried to the Court of Queen's Bench, and Judge Perrin ruled that those premises were not liable. Now it appears to me a great anomaly that persons receiving a higher rent than is usual for ordinary tenants to pay, and having a more certain rental, should be exempted from rate, while persons whose rental is uncertain are obliged to pay it; I think that it must have been some miswording of the clause of the Act of Parliament that led to that decision, and not any mistake in the principle.

7817. What would you recommend to be done in such a case as this: where land is taken by the Government at the value of 50*l.* a year, and they lay out 50,000 *l.* in barracks upon it, would you, in that case, rate the lessor?
That is not exactly the case; the lessor does not receive the rent of those barracks, he merely receives the rent of the land.

7818. How would you propose in such a case to rate the lessor, who receives 50 *l.* a year rent?
I should take it as any other case of occupancy.

7819. It is to be presumed that where 50,000 *l.* has been laid out in building, those buildings will be worth 2,000 *l.* a year at the least; then how would you rate that property, amounting to 2,000 *l.* a year?
This is a public building erected by the Government upon that land, which they rent; those public buildings are exempt under the law; they are not provided for.

7820. In any ordinary case the property would be rated at the full value of the buildings, would it not?
I think the point is not understood to which I limited my observation; I would take for example a police barrack in a town, that is a private house: this house is let at 40 *l.* a year as a police barrack; the person letting that house as a private individual is paid his rent regularly every quarter or every half-year, according to the custom of the country, but he pays no rate whatever upon the 40 *l.* To take another case: we hire buildings as Auxiliary Workhouses; they are paid regularly when the Unions are in funds, and certainly it is a much higher rent than any other individual would pay; yet the owner of those premises is not rated. It is to meet such cases as that, that I make this suggestion.

7821. You do not contemplate or suggest that the rating should take place in proportion to the expenditure upon the building, but in proportion to the rent which the lessor receives?
Precisely so; that is the net annual value.

7822. Have you had any knowledge of cases in which the inmates of Workhouses have committed offences with the view of being committed to prison?
Very many.

7823. Do you trace that to the superior dietary which you have described in the prison, as compared with the Workhouse?
I think partly to the superior dietary, and partly that they look upon it as a jaunt of pleasure to go some 30 or 40 miles over the country, where they may meet with old friends and fresh acquaintances.

7824. It appears from the Returns before the Committee, that the commitments for vagrancy offences in Ireland during the years 1846, 1847 and 1848, have increased in the proportion of 168 in 1846; 3,405 in 1847; and 10,981 in 1848. From the observations which you have made, should you say that there is a considerable augmentation of vagrancy in the district with which you have been connected?
There is such an augmentation of vagrancy in the country generally, because many parties demand relief in towns where they know that they will be committed under the Vagrancy Act; they demand relief purposely and avowedly in order to be sent to prison.

7825. Have you had occasion to consider the expediency of a greater subdivision of areas than that which now exists in the parts of the country in which you have observed the operation of the Poor Law?
I have rather minutely considered the subject generally, as relating to the whole question of the area of taxation; looking more to the practical effects of a reduction of them than to the principle. It has always appeared to me, that the greater the number of areas of taxation that you have within any certain limit, the greater will be the facilities for persons being thrown upon the Union at large; because under the present Law of Settlement, as it may be called, the imperfect settlement that we have in that country, a person must have resided 30 months out of the last three years in one Electoral Division to be chargeable to that Electoral Division. If he should have resided one day more than six months out of any Electoral Division during the three years, he then becomes immediately chargeable to the Union at large. Now,

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if you come to reduce the areas of taxation to anything like property ratings, you create an inducement for persons who have a surplus population upon their land to drive those persons off, and after six months they become chargeable immediately to the Union at large; and the greater number of areas you have in any Union the greater is the facility. Again, supposing we admit, for the sake of argument, that it was practicable to introduce a Law of Settlement into Ireland, which I should not think could be done, it would only have the effect of prolonging the present system. It would eventually work to the same point; you would have the whole of the paupers upon the Union at large in a country where the people are so unsettled in their habits, where they wander about and have no settlement, in fact. Therefore, the greater the number of areas of taxation that you had, the greater would be the progress made towards Union charges. Again, if you come to reduce the size of the Unions, you must take into consideration the principle of valuation, because the establishment expenses for a Workhouse containing 500 persons are much the same as for one containing 800 persons. You have the Workhouse master, you have the matron, you have the chaplain, and you have your doctor and your schoolmaster, receiving much the same salaries in either case. Now, to support a Workhouse of 500 persons, upon the average would cost generally about 3,400*l.* a year; that is taking the present cheap price of food. Now that would be a 3*s.* rate upon a 20,000*l.* valuation. Therefore, in a Union which has a less valuation than 20,000*l.* it would be detrimental, because it would require a 1*s.* rate to support the establishment alone, independently of the food and clothing of the paupers. I have taken that view of the case to show that a great deal of caution must be used in taking into consideration the different elements which enter into the question in different parts of the country. In some parts you may take extent as the criterion, because valuation and extent will run together; but if you take such Unions, for example, as Cahirciveen or Kenmare, in each of which the valuation is above 20,000*l.*, and if you reduce that valuation, you commit a positive injury upon the country and upon the rate-payers. I think it requires a great deal of consideration by the Boundary Commissioners, in reducing the areas both of Unions and of Electoral Divisions, to keep those points in view.

7826. Do not you think that, subject to such caution, there are instances in which it may be expedient, with reference to promoting a greater stimulus to employment, to subdivide both Unions and Electoral Divisions to a greater extent than they are now?

I am very strongly of that opinion, keeping in view those points which I have taken the liberty of bringing before the Committee.

7827. Have you had an opportunity of reading Major Larcom's Report upon that subject?

I have not.

7828. Then you are not sufficiently acquainted with it to state how far it falls in with your view upon the subject?

I am not.

7829. Do you trust to the administration of the Poor Laws in Ireland, without an effective application of the Workhouse test?

I do not.

7830. Will you state the distance from the Waterville extreme of the Kenmare Union to the town of Kenmare?

It is 40 English miles.

7831. Do you conceive it possible that the Workhouse test can be effectually applied where a district of the Union is 40 miles distant from the Union Workhouse?

It is too far.

7832. Have you known instances of parties being obliged to come very considerable distances, and to make repeated journeys, for their applications for Workhouse relief?

Previously to the appointment of the present Vice-Guardians in Kenmare Union, persons had to come that distance to present themselves at the Workhouse before they received relief. When the Vice-Guardians came there (one of whom

whom is now there, the other having unfortunately died of fever contracted in the Union), they appointed days for receiving applications for relief, and investigated the cases in each Electoral Division; for example, one went to Westcove, which is at the extreme part of the Union, in the Electoral Division of Bourdoneen, and the other went to Sneem. All the applicants went personally before the Vice-Guardians, and those cases that were to be relieved were then sent to the Workhouse with a ticket; if they could not walk, a car was provided for them. This saved a great deal of misery to the people: there was no tramping along the road to present themselves at the Workhouse, but their cases were investigated within a mile or a few miles of their homes.

7833. How was it previously to the appointment of the Vice-Guardians?
The whole of the applicants for relief came to the Workhouse.

7834. And in the event of parties being refused, or the Workhouse being full, they had to return and come again?
Yes.

7835. Therefore, in the case of the distance you have alluded to, which is the extreme distance, not the average distance, the parties would have to travel 80 miles?
They would; but the distances are not so great now.

7836. The remedy which you have described is by the Vice-Guardians attending in the different districts, and making the investigation locally?
It is.

7837. Is that a system which you could rely upon being acted upon by elected or *ex-officio* Guardians; could they be expected to take that trouble?
They could not; it would be in vain to expect that they could do so.

7838. Therefore, of course, in Unions as large as that of Kenmare, with distances as great as you have described, the remedy which you state to have been effectual in that instance is a remedy that we can only rely upon in the case of Vice-Guardians being appointed?
It is only in such cases.

7839. Comparing the management of Kenmare with the management of Killarney, is it or is it not your opinion that where you can get an effective, intelligent and independent Board of elected and *ex-officio* Guardians, that is a sounder principle than the creation of a Board of Vice-Guardians?
I can have no doubt that the sound principle is, that the gentlemen of the country should have the administration of their own funds; I think it is only in cases where they do not administer their funds in accordance with the law that Vice-Guardians should be appointed.

7840. Therefore the appointment of Vice-Guardians is to be regarded only as a remedy for an evil, not as a good in itself?
It is a remedy for an evil.

7841. Then, in the cases of very large Unions administered by ordinary Boards of Guardians, the Workhouse test could not be relied upon as being effectual, inasmuch as the system to which you have referred, as affording the most effectual remedy, would not be applicable in that case?
It would not be applicable upon this ground, that the Board of Guardians would have a power to constitute a branch of the Board for any particular district, but then they would put upon that branch of the Board for that district the Guardians nearest to it. The consequence would be, that when persons appeared before them, in investigating their settlement as to the Electoral Division to which they should be charged, there would always be a tendency to throw them upon the Union at large, rather than charge them upon that Electoral Division which they were there supervising.

7842. The Kenmare Union is rather unfortunately situated, geographically speaking, as to the distances that persons have to come, from the length of it being very much greater than the breadth?
It is most unfortunately circumstanced in that particular of any Union. The Boundary Commissioners propose taking away the Bourdoneen Electoral Division, and adding it to Cahirciveen.

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7843. The subdivision of the Unions would of course require additional Workhouses. Would not there be a difficulty in defraying the cost of erecting such additional Workhouses in the present state of the finances of the Union?

No doubt of it; there would be great difficulty in providing funds in the country to build additional Workhouses.

7844. Would there be a difficulty, in your judgment, amounting to an impossibility?

I should not think it would be possible to find funds from the resources of the newly-formed Unions.

7845. Do you think that any subdivision of Unions, without a corresponding erection of Workhouses in each Union, would be productive of any good?

I do not think that it would be productive of any good, unless you were, in subdividing the Union, to erect a Workhouse in each Union. The strong objections which exist to the principle of detached Workhouses under separate management, for want of supervision, would apply equally, whether it was a Union subdivided, or whether it was an auxiliary Workhouse.

7846. Supposing you had a large Union subdivided into two, the Workhouse being situated in one of them for the use of both, do you conceive it possible that there would be a harmonious action between the Board of Guardians in the new Union without the Workhouse, and the Board of Guardians in the old Union, where there was the Workhouse; would there not be perpetual disputes?

From what I have seen of the social condition of the country, I do not think it would be possible that you could have agreement between two Boards under those circumstances.

7847. Would not the maintenance of an additional establishment be felt as an inconvenient burthen by the rate-payers?

That would a great deal depend upon the valuation; because, if we take the Killarney Union as it is now constituted, the expenses of outbuildings, and of the staff required for those outbuildings, come very nearly to the same as the establishment expenses of the house. We have been obliged to have additional masters, additional matrons, additional schoolmasters, and additional clergy. All those are expenses that are now coming upon the Union. If the Union were divided, there would be a small increase, there can be no doubt, in a newly-created Union beyond what is now paid, but not to the full extent that might be expected.

7848. Contemplating a return to the system of locally elected Guardians if the Unions were divided, might not there be in some of the remote districts a difficulty in finding a sufficient number of persons qualified to act as Guardians?

That has been the great difficulty which has been experienced in carrying out the Poor Law, and which has led to the dissolution of many Boards of Guardians.

7849. Does not the great distance of some parts of the Union, such as the distance you have described of 40 miles at the extreme point, render it nearly impossible for ordinary Guardians to give their attendance, especially during the winter season, with that regularity that is desirable?

It would be totally impossible.

7850. Having stated that you rely mainly upon the application of the Workhouse test for the safe working of a system of out-door relief, even assuming that the increased number of Workhouses, and the increased staff connected with them, were an additional local charge, do you not think that there would be a corresponding benefit procured by the economy derived from the limitation of out-door relief?

Certainly; I perfectly agree upon that point.

7851. Whatever may be the temptation of cheapness of out-door relief as compared with in-door relief, *per capita*, do you think that, practically, in its administration, out-door relief must be always the more expensive of the two, by reason of the increased number of claimants, and the impossibility of applying a test?

Certainly; I can exemplify that very clearly and conclusively by this fact, that

that whenever we have been compelled in the Unions which I have had under my charge, to discharge any number of persons from the Workhouse to out-door relief, in consequence of the pressure, the very following Board-day we have been overwhelmed with numbers who came with the expectation of getting out-door relief; and whenever a sealed order is renewed by the Poor Law Commissioners for relief to a certain class, for a week or ten days after that we are overwhelmed with applications.

7852. You are overwhelmed, not only with applications which, in your judgment, are reasonable and fit applications to be entertained, but with applications of parties who seek out-door relief in preference to any other mode of existence?
Precisely so; they will not accept the Workhouse test.

7853. Supposing in the most distressed Unions in Ireland assistance to be required and afforded beyond what can possibly be raised in the district itself, from some extraneous source, do you think it might not be an economical arrangement to apply part of the extraneous assistance so afforded to the erection of additional Workhouses?
It certainly would; but if we look at the expense of a Workhouse, the assistance must be very large, because, to erect a Workhouse for 500 people, with the appurtenances and premises necessary, will cost somewhere about 5,500*l.*; that is, I believe, the usual estimate. Now that is a very heavy sum to raise. The Killarney Workhouse cost 9,700*l.*; that was calculated for 700 originally, and it will contain 800 very conveniently. Now, to advance this sum for each new Union would amount to a very heavy expense. Of course it is not my province to judge how far the Government are prepared to do that; but I am firmly of opinion that the Workhouse test is the only salvation of the country.

7854. Supposing the Workhouse principle to be applied, comparing it with out-door relief even carefully administered, do not you think that the one may be relied upon as having a tendency to check pauperism, whereas the only positive effect of the other is to support the paupers?
I do not think that out-door relief would have any effect in checking pauperism; on the contrary, I think it would induce persons to become paupers.

7855. Therefore, if the diminution of pauperism be an object of such magnitude as to create a sympathy and common interest in other parts of the country as well as the locality itself, would not that consideration justify the application of funds derived *ab extra* for carrying on a system which had a tendency to check pauperism, rather than for one which had a tendency only to support the paupers, and to increase the pauperism?
I can have no doubt upon that question, and I made upon that subject a proposal of rather a gigantic nature as connected with the Kenmare Union, bearing upon that very point. I thought it very far preferable that the Government should come forward with a considerable sum of money to build a gigantic Workhouse there, in order to bring the people to a state of independence, rather than to be doling out sums of 3,000*l.* or 4,000*l.* or 5,000*l.* every year, which would have the effect of demoralizing the people, and make them depend upon others instead of upon their own exertions.

7856. Was that suggestion of yours given in writing?
I had the honour of addressing it to the Marquis of Lansdowne. I went on further, and said, that even supposing after a time this Workhouse was not required for the purpose of a Workhouse, and that you had brought the people round to a wholesome state of feeling, yet you require in Ireland at all times depôts of a reformatory character for delinquents; and in such a Union as Kenmare, for example, you might have an establishment where you might reform boys or any other class for whom it might be necessary; and in that way it would become useful to the Government afterwards.

7857. Then you would construct a new Workhouse, or an additional building to an old Workhouse, upon the principle of its being applicable, in fact, to a bridewell, if at any future time it should cease to be wanted for a Workhouse?
Just so.

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7858. Has there been any emigration of children from any of the Workhouses in Kerry?
I selected 31, a few days before I left, at Killarney.

7859. Were they girls?
Thirty-one orphan girls, who had lost both parents, from the ages of 14 up to 18.

7860. Do you see any danger in making relief under the Poor Law more attractive to the masses of the people, than it is made by the mere attainment of the support of human life?
I should be very much afraid that, if you made the operation of the Poor Law at all attractive in any shape whatever beyond the mere support of human life, the idle habits of the people would lead them to depend upon the Poor Law, and not upon their own exertions.

7861. You have stated that, on the part of many people in the districts with which you are acquainted, there is a very great desire for emigration. Now, if emigration encouraged by the Government were more or less connected with the Workhouse and with poor relief, do not you apprehend that there would be some danger of making that which is an object of desire and anxiety on the part of the people a means of breaking down the Workhouse test?
That is a point to which I have given a good deal of consideration; and I am of opinion, that if you make emigration at all connected with the Poor Law, you will break down the efficiency of the Poor Law.

7862. In point of fact, would it not be connecting with the system of Poor Law relief that which in itself is an object of anxiety and desire on the part of a great mass of the population?
It would be making the Workhouse the great attractive point to every person who wished to emigrate, because by going to the Workhouse he would be provided with the means of emigration.

7863. Therefore, if it should be considered expedient by Parliament and the Government to adopt a system of emigration, assisted and directed by the State, you would not desire to see that connected with the Poor Law administration?
I should not.

7864. Would your objection apply to the case which you have mentioned with regard to the selection of orphan children for emigration?
We must take into consideration that the orphan class is a very small class, comparatively speaking, in the country: those are generally children who have been abandoned at an early age, and come into the Workhouse as a sort of waif thrown upon society; those are parties who do not seek the Workhouse for emigration. But if you made it a *sine quâ non* that persons should go as emigrants from the Workhouse, you would make the Workhouse an object of attraction; every man would conceal his means and come into the Workhouse, because he would say, "It gives me a title to a free passage."

7865. You think that those orphan children, and others in a similar situation, may be fairly considered an exception to the general rule?
I think they might be made an exception, because there is a limit to that class.

7866. Might not the knowledge that such children would eventually be removed to the colonies rather tend to increase the desertion of children?
They are not deserted children, they are orphan children.

7867. You stated that many of those orphans had been deserted in their infancy?
When I used the term "deserted," I meant that they had become orphans in their infancy.

7868. Practically speaking, is not it very difficult indeed to distinguish by any evidence, with the ingenuity that you have to contend with, the cases of desertion from those of orphanage?
It would be difficult, there can be no doubt; but I have always made the Relieving Officers under the Poor Law the great lever by which the operations were to be carried forward. I have impressed upon them that I place the most unbounded

unbounded confidence in them in that respect; but that if I once found them swerving in the slightest degree from their duty; if I found that they were unnecessarily deceived or pretended to be deceived, it should be followed by instant punishment and dismissal.

7869. But if you have to go back several years in your inquiries, even without attributing fraud, is not it difficult, in a population like that of Ireland, to be quite certain that a child which is represented to your Relieving Officer as an orphan, really is one, and not a deserted child?

It is very possible that cases of deception of that sort may occur.

7870. Have there not been many deceptions practised in the simpler case of persons pretending to be widows, who are not widows?

There have been many cases of that description.

7871. If those cases exist with respect to adults, whose existing history you are able to trace with more certainty, will not such cases be much more liable to occur in relation to young children, whose early history it is impossible to trace?

There can be no doubt that it would; but the emigration of those children is provided for in a different manner; it is provided for from the colonial funds; and the Guardians themselves pay the expenses of their outfit, that is, of clothing, and sending them to Plymouth.

7872. Will you state what that expense is?

The expense of the outfit and sending them from Killarney to Plymouth is about 4*l.* 15*s.* a head.

7873. The distance from Killarney to Cork is such as to make that expense less than probably it would be from Unions further from the port of shipment?

No doubt.

7874. What is the expense of emigration to America, contemporaneously with that 4*l.* 15*s.* a head which is required for the outfit and passage to Plymouth, preparatory to emigration to Australia; which of the two is the cheapest?

The passage-money for an adult from Limerick to America, in the steerage, is from 3*l.* 5*s.* to 3*l.* 10*s.* The outfit nearly the same for going to America as to Australia.

7875. Are not you aware that there is a regulated outfit prescribed by the Colonial Department for the long voyage to Australia, infinitely exceeding in extent and in cost anything necessary for the short transatlantic voyage?

I think I can enumerate the articles; there are only two gowns provided.

7876. Is there a disposition on the part of the Guardians themselves to resort to out-door relief in preference to in-door relief?

You will generally find that the rural Guardians in the remoter Electoral Divisions are strongly disposed to out-door relief; it is a point that I have had to combat with them. The principle on which they argue is, that the out-door relief would cost only 7*d.* a week, and that it costs 1*s.* 2*d.* or 1*s.* 2½*d.* for the in-door, and that therefore it is a great deal better to give out-door relief; but they do not see that they would have, probably, five persons upon the out-door relief, where they would only have one upon the in-door. I have known instances in the Killarney Union of only 12 persons accepting the Workhouse, out of 297 applicants from one Electoral Division. Those parties had come forward in the hope of getting out-door relief.

7877. What is the total expense of maintaining a pauper for a year in one of the Workhouses which have been under your control during the last twelve months?

I am not prepared to say more than an approximation. If you take the proportionate charge of an adult pauper, taking the price of provisions which has prevailed during the last year, and clothing, and every other expense, I calculate that the cost is about 6*l.* 15*s.*

7878. Then the expense of maintaining a pauper in the Workhouse, as compared with the expense of sending that pauper to a colony, would be much greater in the former case than in the latter?

It would be more expensive to maintain the pauper for one year in the Workhouse than to send him out to America.

 7879. That

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7879. That is supposing you merely land him in America, and make no provision for his maintenance afterwards?

If we take the sum of 6*l.* 15*s.* as the cost of twelve months' maintenance in the Workhouse, and take the cost of his passage to America at 3*l.* 5*s.*, there would then be a balance of 3*l.* 10*s.* for his outfit, and to give him a sum of money to proceed further up the country upon his arrival; and the Union would be so far a gainer by it, that it would be rid of the man and his family, perhaps for ever.

7880. The Guardians having the power of sending out emigrants in this manner, what is the reason that they do not avail themselves of it, if it is so clear that the expense of one year's maintenance in the Workhouse would be greater than the expense of sending them out to a colony?

The main cause of that is, that the whole body of Guardians are not equally enlightened as to the broad and comprehensive nature of the principle; and it requires an absolute majority of the whole of the members of the Board to expend one sixpence upon emigration purposes. If it were a bare majority of members present at any particular meeting that were required, it might do; but you must have the consent of one-half of the Board of Guardians in writing before one sixpence can be expended upon emigration purposes.

7881. As to the Vice-Guardians, they having the same power as the Board of Guardians, have they, in any case that has come to your knowledge, exercised that power?

They have not exercised it in any case that has come under my knowledge. I have some serious doubts myself whether two gentlemen, where there can be neither minority nor majority, have the same power as an elected Board of Guardians for emigration purposes; and it is a point that I was about to bring under the notice of the Commissioners, because it is important.

7882. Is there not also this difficulty in the way of Boards of Guardians carrying out emigration: assuming the fact to be, that emigration may be required, not generally throughout a Union, but in particular ploughlands or townlands, from which, if the superfluous population is withdrawn, the landlord has a direct profit in the transaction, the Board of Guardians are indisposed to do that at the public charge, which they think the landlord ought to do at his own private expense?

I have no doubt that operates very strongly.

7883. Are you aware of the distinction that exists upon the subject of emigration between the Poor Law of England and the Poor Law of Ireland: in the Poor Law of England, the parish having the power of raising funds for the purposes of emigration on the security of the rates; whereas in Ireland, the funds must be raised on the current rate, and paid for as such. Do you attribute to that difference in the law in Ireland some portion of the indisposition which you have described?

The subject has not come so much under my observation as it might have done in England; it has never been mooted in the Unions to which I have been attached. I have endeavoured on some occasions to get money appropriated to emigration purposes in sending out women whose husbands were abroad; but I have always failed.

7884. You stated an objection, as connected with the Poor Law administration, to mixing up emigration with the Poor Law; do you not think that a colonial objection would also be applicable to it, inasmuch as the desire of the Board of Guardians might rather be to emigrate those that were burdensome to them than to emigrate such parties as would be acceptable to the colony?

There can be no doubt that would be the effect. I should be most desirous that any system of emigration should be entirely independent of the Poor Law.

7885. Does it not seem to you that it would be advantageous to assimilate the law in the two countries with respect to the power of the Board of Guardians to raise funds for emigration?

Looking at the practical working of the Unions with which I am connected, I think you would find it impossible to raise any money. I do not think you would raise money from any party upon security of the rates for that or any other purpose in those Unions.

7886. You

7886. You mean that it would be impossible to do so on account of the peculiar state of the Unions at the present time? *Col. W. A. Clarke.*
The pecuniary difficulties of the Unions. 27th April 1849.

7887. Supposing that the existing power under the 1st & 2d of Victoria, which authorizes the raising of a rate not exceeding 1*s.* in the pound on an Electoral Division for the purposes of emigration, was extended to five years, to authorize a rate not exceeding 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, to be levied on an Electoral Division for emigration; would that, in your judgment, be operative, or would it turn into an entire nullity?
I think it would turn into an entire nullity.

7888. In Cahirciveen, in Killarney, or in Kenmare, if there was a power of raising a rate, not exceeding 2*s.* 6*d.*, in addition to all other rates, and possibly to rates in aid, do you think that would be anything more than waste paper?
It would be nothing more. I am certain that you would not get any Board of Guardians who would pass the necessary resolution for making the rate.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

MICHAEL O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esquire, is called in, and examined as follows: *M. O'Shaughnessy, Esq.*

7889. YOU are Assistant Barrister for the county of Mayo?
Yes.

7890. How long have you held that situation?
I have been about 10 years Assistant Barrister.

7891. Will you state in what parts of Ireland you were previously to your present situation?
I was first appointed to the East Riding of the county of Cork; till November 1847 I was Assistant Barrister of the county of Louth; then I was promoted to Mayo; and from that period up to this I have been in Mayo.

7892. You have held the situation of Assistant Barrister ever since the first introduction of the Poor Law into Ireland?
Yes, very nearly so. I am also a practising Barrister.

7893. Has your attention been particularly directed, in the course of that period, to the working of the Poor Law in different parts of Ireland?
Not much till I went to the county of Mayo; there were very few cases of appeal before me till I went to the county of Mayo.

7894. Have many cases of appeal been brought before your Court since you have been in the county of Mayo?
A great number within the last six months. I think in the last two sessions in January, and the sessions I have just concluded, I have had about 600 appeals under the Poor Law, which we complain of very much. It is a very laborious duty imposed on the Assistant Barristers; they are on the criminal side of the Court, and are a great intrusion on our time, being practising Barristers.

7895. You state that you have had as many as 600 appeals within the last few months; did not those 600 appeals include a very much larger number of ratings; did not some of those appeals include as many as 50 or 100 or 300 occupations?
Yes, hundreds of occupations; that is, one case of appeal upon rating would embrace many numbers.

7896. Has it been the practice for the Vice-Guardians and the Guardians to resist those appeals by the assistance of counsel?
I cannot say that it is the practice to appear by counsel; but they have occasionally had counsel.

7897. At the last Ballinrobe sessions had they counsel?
They had.

7898. At Ballina had they counsel?
I think they had at Ballina; but on this occasion, at the last sessions, they had no counsel.

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7899. Will you be good enough to tell the Committee whether the appellants have been allowed to defend themselves on the merits, or whether they have been resisted upon legal technicalities and legal difficulties?

I think that in considerably the greater number of cases that came before me, they were resisted upon technical matters.

7900. The parties have not been allowed to go into the merits?

No; most of the defeats sustained by the appellants arose from technical points, to the exclusion of the merits altogether.

7901. Have those been cases in which the parties employed professional persons?

They were; either attornies or counsel were employed.

7902. Do you recollect cases at Ballina where parties were not allowed to defend themselves, in consequence of the recognizance being signed by the agent, and not by the person rated?

Yes; those were the first cases that came before me; large numbers of them. I found that the objection was taken that the recognizance had been entered into by the agent of the appellant, and not by the appellant himself. The Act requiring that the recognizance should be entered into by the appellant, I was obliged to dismiss the appeal, and affirm the rate.

7903. You considered it fatal?

I did.

7904. Do you recollect any cases at Ballina where the appellants were not allowed to go into the merits in consequence of the recognizance being addressed to "the Guardians of the Ballinrobe Union," instead of "the Guardians of the Poor of the Ballinrobe Union?"

Yes, I do.

7905. In that case, also, you considered the objection fatal?

I considered the objection fatal; the Act particularly pointing out the title by which they were to sue and be sued; that was "Guardians of the Poor." That being omitted in the notice and recognizance, I considered it to be fatal.

7906. Those appeals, also, were dismissed?

They were.

7907. Do you recollect on that occasion that it appeared in Court that the rate-books had been signed by the Guardians as officers discharging the duty of "Guardians of the Union," and not "Guardians of the Poor of the Union?"

Yes, that is my recollection; I will not say that I am perfectly accurate.

7908. Therefore if the omission of the word "Poor" was fatal in the case of the appeal, it would have been fatal, also, in condemning the poor-rate if advantage had been taken of it?

I will not undertake to give any legal opinion upon a matter not argued before me, or to which my attention had not been previously directed.

7909. Were there not, also, cases in which the appellant was dismissed, because he stated that he "was not" the occupier, instead of stating that he "had not been" the occupier, although the rate against which he appealed had only been struck three weeks previously to the date of his appeal?

Yes. The 109th section of the Act requires that you are not to investigate any matter, cause or thing whatsoever but that stated in the notice as the ground of appeal; and the only question I should have had to investigate was, whether or not the appellant was the occupier at the time he served the notice; whereas the question for my inquiry ought to have been, whether he was the occupier at the time the rate was struck. In many cases months may intervene between striking the rate and signing the notice; and many circumstances may intervene during that period to alter the liability. A person may be an occupier at the time of striking the rate, and not at the time of serving the notice. Although three weeks is a short period, if the principle were allowed, it would hold good equally for three months, and I should then be investigating the immaterial question whether the party was the occupier at the time of the notice, and not at the time of the rating. I therefore dismissed the appeal on the ground of an insufficient notice.

7910. Here,

7910. Here, again, the Vice-Guardians avail themselves of that technical error to deny the appellant his defence on the merits?
Yes.

7911. Do you recollect, also, cases at the Ballina sessions where the appellants were denied all redress in consequence of their having addressed their notices to "the Vice-Guardians," instead of to "the Guardians of the Poor?"
Yes.

7912. There, again, inquiry into the merits was denied?
Yes.

7913. You are aware that by the Poor Law Act the Guardians have a power of unlimited and arbitrary taxation?
I have not investigated the Poor Law Act in relation to that question.

7914. They can rate any person for any property whatsoever?
They have the power of fixing any person in the liability to rate.

7915. And in taking proceedings for the recovery of the debt so imposed, they are not obliged to pursue the course which must be taken in enforcing a common debt, but they are allowed the advantage of producing the rate-book as the *primâ facie* evidence of their case?
Yes; the production of the rate-book, if the name be inserted, throws the onus of disproof upon the defendant; you must prove your non-liability in order to get rid of the effect of your being rated in the book.

7916. In any other case of debt, it would be necessary to establish the debt by evidence?
Of course.

7917. The party would have the advantage of a cross-examination, and all the necessary preliminary notices would proceed from the plaintiff?
Yes; he must make out the case by evidence, which would give you an opportunity of cross-examining the witnesses.

7918. Do not you conceive that, as so very great an advantage is given to the Guardians of proceeding for the rate without producing evidence, the appellants should be allowed every possible facility of defending themselves upon the merits?
I certainly do; but I may also observe, with reference to the book being *primâ facie* evidence, that the principle upon which it proceeds is this, that it is the act of a public officer who is supposed to have done his duty; and he being a public officer and supposed to have done his duty, by inserting the name in the book, and thus making the party liable, that establishes a *primâ facie* case, and throws the onus upon the opposite party to get rid of that liability.

7919. You are pretty well acquainted with the state of the books in the county of Mayo?
Yes, they have come a good deal under my observation.

7920. Have you found that the accuracy of those books is such as to entitle the Guardians and the Valuators to much confidence?
Indeed, I should say not.

7921. Has not it been found that, from the extraordinary difficulties thrown in the way of appellants, every case is met as a record?
It has; some of those cases that have come before me have involved almost as many legal questions as a case of ejectment.

7922. In short, if those 600 cases were really litigated, they would impose as much difficulty and as much trouble as 600 records?
Certainly as much as several ejectments, which in the superior courts are records. It is necessary for the appellant, particularly in the cases to which I am now alluding (cases where the immediate lessor is the person charged in the book), in order to get rid of his liability, to show that he was the immediate lessor prior to the passing of the Act, or that he made the lease prior to the passing of the Act. There may be many interests intervening between him and the occupier, but it is enough to show that the lease was executed by him prior to 1843, and that it was still a subsisting lease; for that purpose

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purpose he must produce his lease, or, if it cannot be produced, give secondary evidence of it. The lease must be proved before me as in a case of ejectment, and then the opposite party looks at it, to discover defects. If the subscribing witness be not produced, or his handwriting, if dead, proved, or if there be an insufficient stamp, I cannot receive the lease in evidence, and the appellant is defeated. Cases have come before me where the appellant could not find the lease, but had an entry of it in his lease-book, but not having laid the foundation for giving secondary evidence by serving certain notices, an objection being taken, I was obliged to reject it. These difficulties are imposed on the appellant in getting rid of his liability, and I have been obliged to leave him subject to the rate in many cases, where in justice he ought not to be so.

7923. In short, where the party seeks no privilege whatever, and seeks no right and no property, he is obliged, in consequence of the arbitrary taxation of the officer, to produce all his leases and title-deeds?

Yes, I have had piles of leases produced before me.

7924. In England, where the occupier alone is liable to the rate, and where, under those circumstances, there is no liability attached to the person whom, according to the Irish Poor Law, we designate as the immediate lessor, no one of those inconveniences can by possibility exist?

No.

7925. It is a simple question of occupation and rating?

Yes, I believe so; but I am not conversant with the working of the English Poor Law.

7926. Do not you see very strong objections to title-deeds and leases being produced in open court, and handled by adverse and opposing solicitors?

No doubt of it; nobody would willingly produce his leases or title-deeds under such circumstances.

7927. And this in a case where the party seeks nothing, and is only defending himself against what he considers an unjust rate?

Yes.

7928. Does the production of those documents generally afford you the means of efficient investigation of the case?

It is not necessary for me to investigate the contents of the lease; I only want to investigate the fact, whether there has been a lease prior to 1843: but yet the lease cannot be proved for that purpose, without being subject to the ordinary rules of evidence.

7929. Do questions never arise as to the validity of those leases?

Questions may arise as to the validity of those leases, but I do not recollect any such. The principal questions would be, whether rent was paid under the lease, and whether it was a subsisting lease. If rent were paid under the lease, I should not investigate whether it was a valid lease between the landlord and his tenant.

7930. You would not consider it necessary to prove the existence of the lives?

Yes; the appellant must prove that it is an existing lease, which increases the difficulty and expense by requiring additional evidence.

7931. Should you require it to be proved, that the person making the lease had the power to make that lease? Supposing he was a tenant for life, should you require the production of the settlement to show that he was exercising a legal power?

No.

7932. Taking those difficulties into account, as bearing upon the case of the immediate lessors in Ireland; with reference to your own experience, do you consider that any cases exist more or less numerous in which the immediate lessor has actually submitted to pay an obligation to which he would not be legally subject?

Certainly; I conceive that it has arisen in this way: the Act passed in 1843, and it was the general impression at the time that all holders valued under 4*l.* were exempt from all rate; whereas the Act, not having a retrospective effect, left all leaseholders, at the time of the passing of the Act, so valued, just as they were

were before, liable to a proportion of the rate. With regard to the tenants from year to year, the Act came into operation immediately, but the landlord in such cases had an opportunity of putting an end to the old contract, by a notice to quit, and in the new contract of adding the rate to the rent, or increasing the holding so as to increase the valuation, and thus avoid the payment of the whole rate. But until the famine came, it was so small that the immediate lessors never attended to it; and the devisers and valuators found it a very easy matter, instead of going through all the multitude of small holdings, just to ascertain who the owner in fee was, and place him in the rate-book as the immediate lessor. The increased amount of rate latterly forced the immediate lessors to inquiry, and they found they were not liable.

7933. Is not the party put upon the rate-books frequently not described by name, so as to forewarn him of the claim made against him by an inspection of the rate-book, but under the anonymous character of "immediate lessor," which conveys to him no information whatever?

There were some cases of that kind.

7934. Has not that been thought a hardship in itself with respect to the enforcement of any legal debt?

A very great hardship.

7935. And that information is not to be obtained by reference to the valuation book?

No; you only see the name "immediate lessor;" who the immediate lessor may be, is supposed not to be known at the time.

7936. Is not it usual to deposit the leases of an estate, as well as the title-deeds, in some cases of mortgage, on borrowing money?

I should say not in Ireland; the operation of the Registration Act would interfere with such a security.

7937. Supposing an equitable mortgage created by the deposit of deeds, are not such things among farmers of not unfrequent occurrence?

They are not usual in Ireland.

7938. What is the expense of carrying on those cases of appeal in your court?

I can hardly give any statement of that, for this reason, that there are no court fees incident to the appeal. It is one of the hardships that we complain of as Assistant Barristers; we have two distinct classes of duties; we have the civil business, where we are independent judges, and where we have fees incident to, and proportioned to the business done; there is also the criminal court, where we preside as chairmen of the Magistrates, and where we exercise a large criminal jurisdiction, for which we have a fixed salary, a salary of between 300 *l.* and 400 *l.* a year, for discharging the largest portion of criminal business of the county; a salary fixed more than half a century ago, and not since altered, while the duties have greatly increased. At the same time, we are a ready body in the county to discharge the duties of every new legislation; and they are thrown upon the criminal side of the court, where no fees are payable. In hearing those 600 Poor Law appeals, I have had most laborious duties to perform without any remuneration. The consequence is, that as there are no court fees, I do not know what the expenses are; the Clerk of the Peace is not paid; no officer of the court is paid; the expense entirely depends upon the contract of the parties what may be paid to the Counsel or the Attorney whom the party may employ, and the expense of witnesses. The court may award costs to the successful party, but the amount will depend on the expenses actually incurred in the employment of professional men, and the expenses of witnesses.

7939. These cases being given to the criminal side of the court, where, generally speaking, in other criminal proceedings, the local Magistrates exercise a co-ordinate authority with the Assistant Barrister, who acts *de gratiâ* as their chairman; do the local Magistrates in these cases interfere, or leave them to the decision of the Assistant Barrister himself?

In the Poor Law cases, they do interfere.

7940. In those cases of appeal?

Yes, in appeals.

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7941. From the analogy of the case, as well as to avoid the possibility of any bias being given by local interference, do not you think that it would be more consistent with the ends of justice, that these appeals, if continued to be heard by the Assistant Barrister, should form a part of the civil business of the county, and should be brought under his cognizance in his separate capacity of chief civil Judge?

That is a delicate matter for me to give an opinion upon, because, in the first place, if this duty were given to the civil side of the court, it would be calculated to increase my emoluments, and therefore any opinion of mine should be taken with reference to that influence; and with respect to withdrawing any jurisdiction from those exercising an equal authority with myself, I should be unwilling to express an opinion.

7942. Supposing that you were now considering the framing of an Act of Parliament for the first time without going upon any other grounds but the mere legal analogy of the business of the Quarter Sessions, within which would it most justly fall, the civil or the criminal business?

It is altogether civil business.

7943. Are there not necessarily, in cases like these, points arising such as you have described, the decision of which belongs rather to the functions of a professional man than to country gentlemen, however upright, earnest and sincere they may be?

Decidedly.

7944. Do you believe that it would be a check upon the expenses of both parties that these cases should come into the civil side rather than into the criminal, by which means the expense would come under the notice of the Assistant Barrister?

Certainly, if they were to be regulated by the fees at the civil side, because the fees are very small; but upon the criminal side there being no limit, and the Assistant Barrister having no control over the fees of the criminal side of the court, the parties must make their contract with each other.

7945. By whom are the fees of the criminal court regulated?

There are no fees in the criminal court, except a small charge for Crown summonses and copies of informations when required. If a prisoner on the criminal side of the court, or a prosecutor, employs a Counsel or an Attorney, he pays him according to custom or contract.

7946. You stated that the Magistrates were in the habit of interfering in Poor Law appeals; in your practice in Mayo have not the Magistrates always accepted your interpretation of the law?

No, they have not; they have overruled me upon two occasions.

7947. Will you state what those two occasions were?

With regard to costs, the 112th section of the Act says, "That the Justices and Assistant Barrister may, according to their discretion, award such costs as they shall think proper." I was of opinion that the court under this section had a discretion to withhold costs altogether, if it did not think the case a fit subject for costs. Lord Lucan gave his opinion, and the Magistrates agreed with his Lordship, that the court had no discretion to withhold costs; that it was imperative in all cases to give some, however small. I thought costs ought to be withheld from the successful party in the particular case; the Magistrates overruled me, and held that not only some costs ought to be given, but in that particular case substantial costs ought to be given.

7948. Was not the opinion of the majority of the Magistrates on that occasion to this effect, that where the Vice-Guardians had not allowed the party to go into the merits, they were not entitled to costs?

The case had gone some length, and it appeared in that particular case that the landlord assigned to a pauper for the purpose of getting rid of his liability, and though the appellant succeeded, I did not think he came into court under such circumstances, having assigned to a pauper to release himself from his liability, as would entitle him to costs.

7949. Did it appear in evidence that such a transaction had taken place?

Yes,

Yes, it was admitted. I cannot say whether it appeared by sworn evidence, but it was a matter that came before the court in such a way as to leave no doubt upon our minds that it was so, and I acted upon it.

7950. You had no doubt of the fact?
No doubt of the fact.

7951. You considered that it had been assigned merely for the purpose of evading the rates?
Partly for that; it was for the purpose of evading both rent and rate; it evaded everything; he was an assignee himself; he was not the immediate lessee; and by assigning he got rid of the liability to rate and rent.

7952. Are you alluding to the case of Mr. Valentine Blake?
Yes.

7953. Had not Mr. Valentine Blake served notice upon the revisor that he was not the proper party to be rated?
I believe he had.

7954. In spite of that notice, was he not rated?
I believe he was.

7955. Was not expense imposed upon Mr. Valentine Blake in consequence of that improper rating?
I believe so.

7956. And the Magistrates thought that some costs, however small, not exceeding 10*s.*, should be given to Mr. Valentine Blake for the expenses imposed upon him?
There were, I believe, 10 cases, which were of the same nature, and turned upon the same point, and the costs in all amounted to 5*l.*

7957. Was it the person who erroneously rated Mr. Blake, or was it the Union that was at the expense of those costs?
The Union; the rate-payers were at the expense; I thought that the party, in order to get costs, ought to come into Court under favourable circumstances, and that the case was, at all events, a proper one for the Guardians to have investigated.

7958. Was not the opinion of the Magistrates this: that when a party had given timely notice to the revisor, if notwithstanding that notice he was improperly rated, and had to incur expense by defending himself, moderate costs should be given to him in that case?
Yes; but there may be cases fit subjects for inquiry notwithstanding such notice.

7959. You have stated that you thought that to entitle a party to ask for costs he should come into Court in a favourable position, and that you considered that the party to whom in that case the costs were awarded by the Magistrates was not in that position?
I thought so from the fact of his having assigned to a pauper for the purpose of getting rid of his liability to rate and rent; I did not think it was a case in which I ought to saddle the rate-payers with the costs.

7960. As a Judge, you adhere to that opinion?
Yes; according to my construction of the Act I thought it a proper case for the exercise of the discretionary power of the Court to withhold costs.

7961. You have been examined with respect to the cost of the civil side, will you have the goodness to tell the Committee what would be the cost of an ordinary proceeding before you at Quarter Sessions, by process for non-payment of rates?
About 6*s.*; that does not include the charge for witnesses; they are merely the legal expenses, recoverable against the defeated party.

7962. But taking the average expense that would be likely to be incurred in such a case, it would not exceed a pound?
I think not, because the book is *primâ facie* evidence; but to the opposite party it may be more.

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7963. Comparing that mode of proceeding with the proceeding in a Superior Court against the same party, would the cost in a Superior Court infinitely exceed that amount?

Incomparably; defeat may be ruin to a person in moderate circumstances; the pleadings are prepared at enormous expense; I have seen some of the pleadings in those cases; I have prepared some myself; the necessity of introducing a number of counts to meet every possible view of the case makes the record very long, and the stamp duties very heavy.

7964. Without, of course, binding you to the actual sum, can you state what the whole expense of those proceedings in the Superior Courts may be taken at in such a case; would it be above 10*l.*?

It would be nearer 100*l.*

7965. In a case where the Bill of Privilege amounted to 45 skins of parchment, and the declaration to 1,300 folio sheets, what, as a lawyer, do you suppose would be the expense of such a case as that?

With regard to taxing costs, I do not know what the profits of an attorney may be upon it, but I believe that, generally, they must be very considerable.

7966. Can you not give the Committee some idea what would be the expense in such a case?

The expense of the pleadings is very great, and if the case should go to trial, much would depend on the number of witnesses and length of the assizes; I should say that it would be 150*l.* at least.

7967. Do you know of any cases of the kind respecting which you have just been asked having been brought before one of the Superior Courts?

I do; in the Court of Queen's Bench the cases of the Westport and Castlebar Unions against the Earl of Lucan; in these cases the costs must have been very heavy.

7968. You are aware that under the Poor Law Act three modes of recovering rate are prescribed; the one a proceeding before the Justices; another, a proceeding before the Quarter Sessions; and the third, a proceeding with the consent of the Poor Law Commissioners in the Superior Courts. Now, supposing a defendant residing within your jurisdiction as Assistant Barrister, would not the proceeding before you against that party, he being within your jurisdiction, be equally operative with a view to recover the demand?

I should say so, decidedly; the decree is just as operative; it is immediate, and it is not attended with delay; the quarter sessions are held four times in the year. In the Superior Courts a little dexterity will throw it over for a term, and then at the assizes, if it is a heavy case, it may be a remanet; possibly, in the one case, it may spread over more than a year; in the other case, it is decided almost immediately.

7969. But the jurisdiction of the Court of Quarter Sessions does not extend to cases of more than 20*l.*?

No; there is an appeal from us to the Judge of Assize, and, therefore, whenever an appeal has taken place, the party has an opportunity of postponing the execution of decree.

7970. In that case would it not be in the character of an ordinary appeal from the Assistant Barrister, which is disposed of, generally, in a summary way?

Yes, always guarded by the oath of the Attorney, that it is not made for delay or for vexatious purposes.

7971. Taking the whole of those circumstances into account, is there any difference between a proceeding for a sum under 20*l.* before the Assistant Barrister and a proceeding in the Superior Courts, assuming the defendant to be within the jurisdiction, except that the one is much longer, more uncertain, and infinitely more expensive and burdensome than the other?

That is my opinion.

7972. Is it true that the party enforcing the payment of the rate would experience technical difficulties in the Assistant Barrister's court which he would not have to experience in the superior court of record?

Decidedly

Decidedly not; he would have less technical difficulty in the inferior court, because we are not bound by the strict rules of pleading; the whole case is stated upon a short piece of paper, instead of being spread over the record with a number of counts, and if a party is defeated, the expense is small; it is not ruinous, as it may be in the superior courts.

7973. Is there a power of execution upon your decree through the Sheriff, and is there, consequently, all the power that there is under any other judgment that would be executed by the Sheriff?

No; that is a very important matter. I will state the proceeding upon that, which is very defective; the Sub-sheriff gets a fee of 1*s.* for putting his name to the warrant for executing the decree; but he is not responsible for anything, nor does his officer execute the decree; the party himself is obliged to employ a special bailiff at his own expense to execute the decree, and the result is, that in many cases those warrants are entrusted to a description of persons who get the money, and very often never return it to the party; they also take bribes, and never execute the decree. It is a defect complained of by everybody that the Sub-sheriff gets a fee for which he does nothing at all, and if there is anything wrong in the execution of the decree, the Sheriff is not liable; but the party himself who gets the decree is liable. It is an anomaly that a public officer should receive fees while he has no duty to discharge, or no responsibility to incur.

7974. Your answer applies to the general proceedings under the Assistant Barrister; are the proceedings under the Poor Law Guardians executed in any other manner; are the police, for instance, employed?

My answer applies to all decrees on the civil side of the court only. At the criminal side of the court its orders are executed by the police.

7975. Supposing a case of non-payment of poor's rate brought before you, and you grant a decree as against the party, how is it executed?

By the special bailiff of the party, at his own expense and risk.

7976. In that case, as relating to the particular subject under consideration, however defective the ordinary mode of executing decrees may be in other cases, those observations would not apply to this case?

No. The observations as to defect of execution do not apply to cases where the orders of the court are executed by warrants to the police.

7977. Therefore, you would have a more speedy and much cheaper and more certain process, from the first inception of the proceeding until the final execution of the decree, in the case of a proceeding before you, than there would be in the case of a proceeding before the superior courts, limiting the question to the recovery of rates?

Yes.

7978. Do you think that there would be any objection to making it imperative to bring proceedings of this kind into the Assistant Barrister's court, and not into the superior courts?

I see no objection. The only objection is that which was alluded to in a former question as to making the decree effective. At present, there being no public officer to execute the decree, it is not sufficiently effective, it being executed at the peril of the party, and by his own bailiff, whomever he may chance to get to undertake it.

7979. But that does not apply to poor-rates?

It does not apply to the appeal which is not a proceeding to enforce payment of the rate, but merely to ascertain the liability to be rated; but if the recovery of the rate was brought altogether into the Assistant Barrister's court, it would be necessary to make the decree effective.

7980. Would there be, in your opinion, any difficulty in doing that?

I can see none.

7981. Are you aware that it has been ruled by some Assistant Barristers in Ireland, that it is necessary for the appellant to serve notice upon all the parties whose names should be substituted in the rate-book instead of his own?

It has.

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7982. Is not it your opinion that that imposes upon the appellant very extraordinary difficulty?

Very great.

7983. Lord Sligo had a very large number of appeals at the last Winter Session?

He had.

7984. He served a very large number of notices?

So I understood. Some of the cases came before me, but a great number of them were settled. I heard that he had to serve, I think, no less than 1,500 notices in one district; I heard altogether about 3,000 notices, and that his whole staff of agents, clerks and others were employed for months in making the necessary preparations. That arose where the immediate lessor was charged in the rate-book; he had then to get rid of his liability. It was certainly a question of some difficulty, under the Act, whether he could get rid of his liability without showing who ought to be placed upon the book, without finding a substitute. I gave the subject a good deal of consideration, and I thought that where a party could show complete exemption from liability, that was quite sufficient, without showing who ought to be substituted. However, others differed from me upon that, but I think that the Court of Queen's Bench rather confirmed my decision. Where the immediate lessor stated in his appeal the names of parties to be substituted, there it was necessary to serve notices; of course, those parties had a right to come into court and be heard why they should not be placed upon the rate-book. The consequence was, that in many instances they did come, and I had the court crowded with parties who were noticed. It was a separate case with each person, as between the immediate lessor and each of those occupiers. If there was any defect in the proceeding on those occasions, the immediate lessor's appeal was dismissed, and he was subject to costs to every one of those noticed parties.

7985. Has the accumulation of those Poor Law proceedings been very inconvenient with respect to the discharge of the other business of the court?

Very inconvenient; so much so, that last Monday week, when my criminal business ought to have commenced, I was engaged with appeals; I sat from nine till six o'clock hearing appeals, and I found that I could not get through them; I was about to adjourn, and take them up the next day, but the Sub-Inspector of Police came to me, when he heard that I was about to take up the appeals the next day, and he said, "Sir, I cannot answer for the lives or health of the inhabitants of the town if the number of persons now in the Bridewell be kept there long. The Bridewell is calculated to contain only 18; 70 prisoners have come from Castlebar for trial, and there are but three blankets between them; they may sleep there to-night on straw, but if they are kept here another night in that state, I cannot answer for the lives of many of them." I mentioned that in the court. I said that it was impossible to go on with the appeals, and that I should adjourn the appeals for two or three days till I had disposed of the criminal business. There were complaints naturally by some of the appellants. Lord Lucan, who had come from London, was engaged in some of them, and Mr. Blake and others; and they said, "What are we to do; are we to remain here with our witnesses at expense?" I then said, "It is now six o'clock; I will tell you what I will do to get through the business, if you consent to it; I will adjourn the court for an hour, that we may all dine, and I will sit here as long as you like, if it be any accommodation to you; but I must proceed with the criminal business to-morrow." All parties consented, and I sat till half-past 12 o'clock to dispose of the appeals. That is the duty which has been cast upon us.

7986. Without fee or reward?

Without any remuneration, save so far as a small salary, given more than half a century ago, for other business, may be considered so. I mention that, to show the inconvenience and obstruction to the ordinary business of the court which it causes.

7987. You stated, that the necessity of serving notices was differently viewed by different Assistant Barristers, and that the opinion lately given in the Court of

of Queen's Bench supported you in the view that no such necessity really existed?

That is the view I took of the decision.

7988. Will you be good enough to tell the Committee whether, since that decision of the Court of Queen's Bench, some Assistant Barristers have put a different construction upon the Act?

I am not aware; the Sessions have only just terminated. It was last Hilary Term that the Court of Queen's Bench pronounced that opinion.

7989. You admit that in many cases the requiring so large a number of notices is such an obstruction as to be a denial of justice to the appellant?

Yes; it would be better, in many cases, to pay the rate.

7990. But where that opinion prevails, on whom does the onus fall of discovering who is the proper person to be served with notice?

Upon the person charged as the immediate lessor.

7991. Provided the person charged as immediate lessor proved that he was not the person liable, and, therefore, his name removed from the rate-book, then on whom did the onus fall of discovering the proper person to be served with notice?

The immediate lessor being removed, there was a deficiency in the rate, which could not be supplied till the next rating; and it was for the Guardians and their officers then to ascertain who was properly chargeable.

7992. Was there any means of forcing the Guardians to ascertain who was the proper person?

No; nor could they, till the next rate.

7993. Then, in that case, a great portion of the land would escape rate altogether?

Yes, to the extent of immediate lessors whose names were removed.

7994. And, consequently, the burden would be unjustly increased upon every other rate-payer?

As to that immediate rating, it would not affect anybody; the sum attached to each person's name only could be levied; in fact, there would be that deficiency in the fund for the year.

7995. It would cause the necessity of striking another rate so much sooner?

Yes; the fund would be exhausted the sooner.

7996. Was the land, under those circumstances, freed from rate, or did it remain liable?

That is a question of some difficulty.

7997. You have stated that the party rated has to contend with every sort of legal difficulty, and obstruction in many cases?

Yes.

7998. You consider yourself obliged to receive nothing but that which is according to the strict law of evidence?

Yes.

7999. Can you recommend to the Committee any provision to be introduced into any future amendment of the law, which should relieve parties from the gross injustice which sometimes takes place?

I have not turned my attention to the mode of remedying the defect.

8000. Do you see any objection to there being a clause introduced securing to the appellant the right to be heard on the merits?

I do not see any objection to it.

8001. Would not the only effectual remedy be to make the debt attach to the land, and not to the individual?

I have been discussing that with some practical intelligent persons, and the difficulty they have thrown out is this: the rates require a speedy collection, and it may not be so easy to recover them from the land; a process against the individual may in many cases be more satisfactory, and there may be no distress

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upon the land, or it may be removed. What they say is, that it should be speedy, against whatever objects it may be directed.

8002. Would not that object be partially effected by limiting the time of distress within a certain period, and making the collector of the rate liable for the whole amount?

It may be so, but that would increase the difficulties of getting a collector.

8003. Is not that the law in England?

I am not aware.

8004. Is not it at present very difficult to get good and sufficient collectors in Ireland?

Yes.

8005. Would not that increase the difficulty to such a degree as to make it almost impossible?

I should say if you were to hold collectors liable in cases of that kind, it would be scarcely worth anybody's while to become a collector.

8006. Will you explain to the Committee what are precisely the cases which arise out of the Poor Law which, under the existing state of the law, are now referred to the Assistant Barrister, and what to the General Court of Quarter Sessions?

The appeals which are to determine the liability of parties to be rated, are disposed of at the criminal side of the Court. For the recovery of the rate as a debt, they come before the civil side.

8007. Can you account for that distinction?

The rate is assumed to be ascertained in the one case that it is a debt; when the time of appeal has passed, and the party is still upon the books, it is a recoverable demand against him, and then the Guardians come to the civil side of the Court, by civil remedy to enforce it. Before it is established as a debt, there is an appeal against the right to be placed upon the rate-book at all, and that is heard at the criminal side of the Court, and in that proceeding there is nothing to enforce its payment as a debt.

8008. Do you think it desirable that the law should be altered in that respect, and that those cases should be brought under the jurisdiction of the civil side of the Court?

We have at present no cases before us on the civil side analogous to these. At present they are cases chiefly arising from contract or compensation for wrongs, but this would be a process, not for the purpose of recovering either a debt or compensation for some injury, it would be merely the establishment of a right.

8009. That is in accordance with the system in England, is it not?

I am not aware.

8010. When it is a debt which is established, it goes to the civil side?

Yes.

8011. In Ireland have not the Magistrates the advantage of a professional chairman, whereas in England they have not?

Yes, I believe so.

8012. Do you find the Magistrates generally disposed to take your construction of the law?

They are generally, that is my experience. The Magistrates of Ireland do in almost all instances pay the greatest deference to the opinion of the Assistant Barrister; the only exception is, matters connected with the Poor Law. The criminal jurisdiction of the Assistant Barrister's court has been greatly increased, in consequence of the abolition of capital punishments having thrown so large a portion of the criminal business of the country upon us; and we complain very much of so many other duties of a different class being thrown to the criminal side of the court, impeding the ordinary movements of it.

8013. But the Magistrates, in the same proportion, have a right to complain of the great increase of duty thrown upon them?

Provided

Provided they make it a duty to attend; but it is the Assistant Barrister who disposes of all the business. The Magistrates will occasionally come in in a particular case, and sit with the Assistant Barrister for a while, and walk away again; but they have not the responsibility which the Assistant Barrister has; he is accountable to Government; the officer in communication with the Government; if there be a memorial as to any circumstances which may be ascertained after sentence is passed, the application is made to him; therefore, the onus is upon me of taking full notes of the evidence, and attending to every thing which passes, controlling professional men, preventing illegal evidence from being given, and charging the jury. He cannot leave the court; but the Magistrates come and go just as they please.

8014. Are you occasionally or frequently left alone to do the business of the court?

The stipendiary Magistrates, I believe, are required by Government to attend, and they generally attend; but the unpaid Magistrates sometimes attend, and they sometimes do not. I sit at nine in the morning; that is rather an early hour for Magistrates to attend; I am generally alone till twelve or one o'clock.

8015. In many cases they generally attend, do they not?

The stipendiary Magistrates do, unless other duties intervene; but from their other duties very often they are prevented.

8016. Are not the unfortunate circumstances of the Magistrates of your county of Mayo at this moment such as to prevent a great many of them attending to public business?

I am told so; I know the attendance is very scanty, and I believe, from all I hear, that that is the case.

8017. You find that the attendance more recently has been more scanty than it used to be?

I have been but a short time in the county, and I believe the circumstances of the country, which would render it inexpedient for them to attend, had commenced before.

8018. In some towns like Castlebar, the attendance is pretty good, is it not?

Yes.

8019. Will you state what those circumstances are to which you alluded in a previous answer?

The state of embarrassment in which many of them are.

8020. Have those embarrassments increased to a degree to render, within your own observations, the attendance of Magistrates less certain than it used to be?

I should say so; they are very frequently at the civil side of the court parties, defendants in proceedings against them, and I am very often obliged to make decrees against them; under those circumstances, it would not be very pleasant to have them in court.

8021. Is not it notorious that in the West of Ireland, owing to the general depreciation of property, and to the distress which has prevailed, the attendance of Magistrates in discharge of their ordinary functions is rendered impossible from the position in which they are placed?

I should say so.

8022. Supposing the present state of things to continue and to increase, what do you think would be the consequence upon the administration of the law in the country?

I think you would have no Magistracy fit to discharge the duties of the country; I think that wherever the Magistracy by their embarrassments are reduced below their social position, lose caste, it is questionable whether they are fit persons to be entrusted with the commission of the peace. I had a case before me at the very last Sessions of a very singular character; a Magistrate was processed for lodging, and it appeared that he left his own residence and went to a respectable tenant to avoid arrest; he got a lodging there, and occupied it for a year and nine months; it was for the recovery of the lodging which he had contracted to pay that the process was brought before me; but in the progress of that case these circumstances transpired: the defendant set up this defence, that he had

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built a barn for the tenant while he was there, and that the building of this barn was a compensation for the lodging. It was sworn by the son of the tenant, and his two daughters, that that was a barn built for illicit distillation by the Magistrate while he was in the house, and that he and his brother-in-law carried on illicit distillation during that time. It further appeared that during that period he certified for that man, who held nine or ten acres of ground, being placed upon the relief list. He had his property conveyed to trustees for the use of his wife, and his wife still continued at his residence, but occasionally visited him. Last October the wife came on the premises of the tenant, the husband being still in this man's house, and distrained for the rent, and sold his cow, his horse and his car; it appeared that those were purchased by her, and some of them were actually at his residence. This further occurred: the tenant had a heifer, and he was about sending it to another place to graze; "No," said this gentleman, "do not send it there; I have grass at my place; send it there." It was accordingly sent there last October, and remained there till February last; the tenant then, in the open day, went and brought away the heifer: that Magistrate went and swore informations for a felony against this man; he had this man, himself the tenant, his son and his two daughters, taken out of their beds at night, as felons, and brought to the neighbouring Magistrates, who took informations against the four of them. The man and his son were indignant, and refused to give bail, but bail was given for the daughters; this man and his son were conveyed to Castlebar gaol, and remained there for 10 days; the assizes came on, the bills were ignored, and the men liberated. They brought their process for the lodging, and I decreed for them. The Magistrate was in court; he was very anxious to relieve himself from the imputation, particularly of the illicit distillation; he denied that the illicit distillation was carried on by him; he said, "That is not true; it was carried on by the man himself." I said, "Suppose you are not the person who actually carried on the illicit distillation, though I believe you were, you cannot deny that you, as a Magistrate, were resident in that man's house while it was going on, and it was your duty, as a Magistrate, to have disclosed the circumstances, and not to have permitted it; so that in any case you are culpable."

8023. A communication, I believe, was made to you by the Lord Lieutenant of the county on this subject?
Yes.

8024. With the view of having that gentleman removed from the commission of the peace?
Yes; before I left the last sessions at Castlebar, Lord Lucan, when he heard the circumstances, promptly wrote to me, as Lord Lieutenant of the county, and I have since sent him a detail of the circumstances; otherwise I should have felt it my duty to wait either upon the Lord Chancellor or some member of the Government, and to have apprised them of the circumstances on my return to Dublin from my sessions.

8025. What position in society did this individual hold previously to his embarrassment?
I understood a respectable position previous to his embarrassments.

8026. Had he been long in the commission of the peace?
I heard he was a considerable time in the commission of the peace.

8027. How long had he been in the commission of the peace?
I believe for several years, but I speak in that from rumour; it is such a case as that which impresses me with the conviction that when men lose caste as Magistrates, when their embarrassments oblige them to resort to such expedients to evade the law, they are not fit persons to be in the commission of the peace.

8028. He had been several years in the commission of the peace?
I understood so.

8029. Had he the reputation of being a man of good property in that county?
I believe not.

8030. Assuming

8030. Assuming the present state of things to continue, you have stated the inconveniences that would arise with respect to the attendance of Magistrates at the Quarter Sessions; do you think the same inconveniences would also arise with respect to the discharge of their duty at Petty Sessions, their attendance as Grand Jurors, and the performance of other civil duties with which Magistrates are charged?

Certainly.

8031. Contemplating that, is there not a tendency towards the breaking up of the social system altogether?

Unquestionably, in such counties; I see that very clearly from the cases which occurred before me at Westport; punishment is losing its terror, many of the prisoners requesting to be transported. I have made extracts from my note-book of those cases, if the Committee would desire to have them read—[*The Committee said, "By all means."*]—This occurred last week: "Dominick Gennelly was indicted for a larceny of hempen ropes; he was about 17 years old; he pleaded guilty; he had been twice convicted before, and had been only just discharged from gaol. I asked him why he committed the offence, having only been just discharged from imprisonment? he said he wanted to be transported; he should do the same again if he were let out; I sentenced him to transportation. Michael Gavan pleaded guilty to stealing a sheep; he had been convicted before; he said he wished to be transported; he should do the same thing again—transported. Thomas Joyce pleaded guilty to stealing meal; he said he should do the same thing again, and wished to be transported—transported. Martin M'Ginty, John M'Grene and John English were found guilty of stealing hempen ropes; they were each about 17 years of age; two of them had been three times convicted before; the third had never been in custody before; the three requested to be transported—transported. Michael Eady, a boy about 18 years of age, pleaded guilty to stealing a shawl; had been convicted of larceny before, and had been only just out of prison; he said he would do the same thing again; he had no means of living, and wished to be transported—transported. Owen Eady, his brother, pleaded guilty to stealing sheets; wished to be transported; he said he should rob again if let out. I asked him if he knew what transportation was? he said he knew he would be kept at hard work, and at the end of the time he would have his liberty in another country, and that was better than starving and sleeping out at night, and robbery. He was then told that, perhaps, he would have chains upon his legs, and asked if he would like that? 'If I do,' said he, 'I will have something to eat; nothing can be worse than this country; send me out of this at any rate'—transported."

8032. Have any cases come before you criminally in which it at all appeared that the persons indicted for criminal offences had committed the offence with a view to their commitment?

I have had some cases of that kind.

8033. Were those persons mostly transported?

Yes; they had been convicted before. "Margaret Hesten and Mary Walsh were convicted of stealing one cow and two heifers; they said they took them to get into gaol and be transported; should do the same again if let out; they pleaded 'not guilty,' lest they should not be transported if they pleaded guilty; they knew not what transportation was, but nothing could be worse than hunger—transported."

8034. Were those cases at the last Sessions?

Yes, last week.

8035. Have you had any experience of the same kind at former Sessions?

I have.

8036. To the same extent?

Not quite to the same extent.

8037. Do you think that those feelings and that practice are increasing?

Yes; last June Sessions I imprisoned a good many who had been some time in gaol for petty thefts; I would have merely inflicted a nominal punishment upon them, if they had not requested to be kept in prison till things came round, and

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they were kept in gaol, really with a view of preserving life, till the harvest came round.

8038. Has any case of this kind occurred to your knowledge, or has it reached you that such things have been practised in the country,—that robberies have been committed with the connivance of the owner of the property, for such purposes as thus: the relations, for instance, of a small farmer, perhaps four or five of them, come and kill a sheep, worth, perhaps, 1 *s.* or 8 *s.*, for which he would swear informations against five or six of the party; the whole of them would be committed to gaol, and it would be in the prosecutor's power afterwards to bring forth insufficient proof to convict them, or take care that the prosecution failed after they had passed a certain time in gaol?

No such cases came before me.

8039. Have the occurrences you have described, produced a strong impression upon the prisons; I observe by a Return, that in the year 1846, the number of persons committed in Ireland was 18,000; in the year 1847 it was 31,000, and in the year 1848 it was 38,000: does that rapid increase show itself in the prisons within the county with which you are officially connected?

Yes, and it is singular how it varies; at one period, when the country is prosperous, you will find the crimes consist chiefly of assaults, crimes against the person; very few larcenies. Those, however, have nearly disappeared, except as arising from the same source, such as rescues from the poor-rates, and rescues from rent; but at present, they are almost all crimes against property.

8040. Those crimes against property were comparatively of rare occurrence previous to the famine?

Comparatively so, except in towns.

8041. The crimes against the person have now almost disappeared?

Except as connected with the same source.

8042. I observe in the same Return to which I have referred, that the deaths in prisons in Ireland have augmented in the same three years, 1846, 1847, 1848, in the following proportion: 136, 1,283, and 1,214; are you able to state whether that aggravated mortality in the prisons has shown itself in the prisons of the county of Mayo?

So I am informed.

8043. And notwithstanding that aggravated mortality, there is still a desire on the part of the population to obtain an asylum in the prisons?

There is—as they say, anything rather than sleeping out and hunger.

8044. There have been a considerable number of cases under the Vagrant Act, have there not; I observe that the commitments under the Vagrant Act in Ireland, in three years, have increased from 168 to 3,400 in the following year, and in last year to 10,981?

They do not come before me at all; I have scarcely any knowledge of them.

8045. The Committee have it in evidence, that the county rates in the county of Mayo, out of which the support of the prisons and the maintenance of the public establishments are to be provided, are greatly in arrear, and that the public Surveyor feels very doubtful how they can be collected; what would be the consequence in the county of Mayo if the county rate is not able to be collected?

General ruin; I cannot conceive anything worse.

8046. Have you anything to suggest in respect to the working of the Poor Law in Ireland?

No, not at present; I have not turned my attention much to the subject of anything remedial.

8047. Have many of those cases of offences, such as rescues or thefts upon property, originated in the operation of the Poor Law itself; have they arisen from the parties being reduced to such a state of distress, owing to the pressure of the law, that they have had recourse to theft?

I will not say that they have resulted from the distress produced by the levy of the rate alone; other circumstances have contributed to it. I think rescues have arisen, in a great measure, not so much from their being unable, or even unwilling to pay the rate, if they fancied they were liable to it. In that case,

I do

I do not think they would so strongly resist; but many of the cases to which I refer, arise from the way in which it is put in force. One person is named in the rate-book for a considerable holding; several persons may be placed on that holding. They knowing that their names are not in the rate-book, if they find their cattle taken, they say, "I have no right to pay; my name is not in the rate-book at all;" and they rescue; many cases come before me on the criminal side of the court of that kind. If the person has not appealed, the land is liable, and the distress proper; the law has been violated, and the man must be punished. A great many cases arise from the levy of the county cess in the same way. I have many cases before me, on the criminal side of the court, arising out of the levy of that; and I must say, that it has astonished me why the country gentlemen of Ireland have not taken some measures to relieve the occupiers from the mode in which that rate is levied. It has frequently struck me, therefore, that wherever the landlords were themselves made in some measure liable for any tax upon the land, they felt part of the inconvenience, and if anything were wrong, they set it to rights where it affected themselves; but where it did not affect themselves, but only the occupier, as in the case of the county cess, they allowed the evils to accumulate, and they never combined for the purpose of removing them. In the levy of the county cess, a townland or a parish is chargeable for the whole amount. The collector gets his warrant, and unless the people applot a particular sum among themselves, he may go on any portion of the land and seize. The result is, that the bailiffs and collectors are bribed by some people, who say, "Do not come to me, but go to that man; you will succeed with him best." That man says, "I am ready to pay my own share;" but the collector says, "I must levy for the whole townland." The consequence is, there are rescues; the cases come before me in the criminal court, and the people are demoralized. I have frequently reason to notice it, and ask why is not an effort made to remedy it. The country gentlemen, in their Grand Juries, and otherwise, have the means of combination, which the poor people have not; and in Ireland, where the holdings are so subdivided, and the people are so generally ignorant, they are required to go through a difficult process, which requires great intelligence—that is the process of applotment. It is a legal process, and requires legal assistance to do it; and yet the most incompetent portion of the community are required to do it. That has been going on for years, while the occupiers have to pay the rate alone; the same effort will not be made to control jobbing, as if a portion of the rate affected themselves. When you contrast the Poor Law with that, you find that the moment the Poor Law affected the landed proprietors, they immediately combined, and took measures to have every evil connected with it redressed; but the evils arising from county cess have been left for years without any remedy at all.

8048. Has it come within your knowledge that the county cess in the county with which you are acquainted is considerably in arrear?

That has not come before me officially. The salaries are not paid; it is so much in arrear now in the county of Mayo, that none of the public officers have been paid.

8049. That cessation of the payment of the public officers has arisen from the inadequacy of the collection, has it not?

I do not mean to say that it has arisen altogether from that; it has arisen from the inability of parties to pay.

8050. The payment to the officers would be consequent upon the receipt of the county cess?

Yes.

8051. Therefore the cause why those officers are not paid is, that the collectors have not been able to collect the county cess?

They have not.

8052. Has that occurred in other counties besides Mayo, to any great extent?

I am not aware; I should think in most of the Southern and Western counties it prevails to some extent.

8053. The arrears due upon the lands of the county, which have not paid their county cess, remain always chargeable; they are never remitted, are they?

They remain a charge upon the land; so I believe.

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8054. If this accumulation were to continue indefinitely, the fee-simple value of the land would be absorbed in the cess, would not it?
And of the rates, except that the thing must cease; if the rates be not collected to support the gaol, you can have no gaol.

8055. Do you believe that the county rates were at all in arrear prior to the collection of the poor-rates?
I believe not to any great extent; I believe they were collected pretty well.

8056. Are not the salaries of the officers regulated by Act of Parliament?
They are.

8057. Is it not the general wish of the grand jurors generally rather to reduce than to increase the allowance given by Act of Parliament?
I believe so; but if a change is to be made in the Act of Parliament, the grand jurors and the landed proprietors of the county are the persons who are most likely to combine, and by their influence produce any salutary change in the law.

8058. Are not the salaries considered by the grand jurors and the proprietors as excessive, and are not they anxious at this moment that they should be considerably reduced?
I am not aware of that.

8059. Are not you aware that in the county of Mayo the county cess was applotted according to Mr. Griffith's valuation?
No, I am not; I have inquired. I have endeavoured to ascertain it, because so many cases have come before me of rescues on the criminal side of the court connected with the rates. A case came before me the other day, which was a case of great hardship. There was a lady the widow of a Protestant clergyman; she had her son in an office here; he sent home a few sovereigns to his sister as a Christmas present; she bought some lambs with the money, and sent them out to grass with a neighbour. The county cess collector came and seized them all for the townland cess. The proportion of the cess for this land was tendered and refused, unless the cess of the whole townland was paid. That was more than the lambs were worth. She sued him before me, and I was obliged to dismiss it, because he was entitled to go upon any part of the townland with a warrant for the purpose; and this lady's lambs, which were purchased with this gift, were seized, and there was no redress.

8060. You are not, then, aware that the Grand Juries have felt themselves compelled to return to the old system of townland collection, in consequence of the impossibility, in these times of difficulty, of collecting the rates upon the applotment?
No; all I know is the fact that they collect upon the old system still, that no change has been made, and that the whole of the townland is liable in such cases as came before me.

8061. Do you mean to convey to the Committee that some short time since, in most of the baronies of Mayo, the county cess was levied by applotment?
No; in all the cases which have come before me, I could see no applotment.

8062. Could you suggest any mode of correcting the existing evil with respect to the manner in which the cess-books are kept, so as to prevent that necessity of appeal to which you have alluded?
No, I cannot; I have not considered it.

8063. Do you not think it would be an essential improvement, one not only consonant with justice, but really essential to justice, that where a party who is about to be rated is known, his name should be inserted in the rate-book, rather than the title of immediate lessor?
Certainly, where it is known.

8064. But must not he be afterwards known, if proceedings are to be taken against him?
Yes.

8065. Is there any great hardship in requiring the individuals, who must find out

out such a party, in order to take proceedings against him, to find him out before, and to make him liable, by inserting his name upon the rate-book?

No, I should say not. The difficulty at present is, that they must have some name; it will not do to insert the lands alone, without inserting some name. You cannot have a remedy against the lands without the insertion of some name in the character of immediate lessor. It may be very difficult, and a matter of considerable time to find out who the immediate lessor is, and in the mean time the rate must be recovered.

8066. If the rate be not paid, must not they discover the name of that individual, in order to proceed against him?

They must, to proceed against him personally; but they may proceed against the land without it, after the lapse of some time.

8067. But in either case, do you think the obligation is too strict a one to impose upon parties, where there is a pecuniary payment to be made, capable of being exacted in the manner you have described, that they should discover, and should insert the name of the person who is liable?

I should say they ought to do so.

8068. In your experience as a lawyer, are you aware of any other instance in the legal practice which has come before you, in which a person is rendered liable by an entry made in the book of a public officer, in which he is not specifically named, and for a debt of which the claim is not made known to him?

I am not.

8069. Do not you think the evil might be in some degree corrected, by requiring the rate-book to be made out at a longer period before the rate has to be levied?

No doubt it would be giving more time; but then the rates are to be recovered; the poor-house must be supplied.

8070. That being known long previous to the necessity for levying the rate, what is there to prevent the books being made out previously, at a more distant period?

I see none, when the thing has been once done. If once the machinery were effectively worked, there would not be much difficulty afterwards.

8071. Do you think it would be an improvement to require the books in the first instance to be made out in sufficient time, to give full opportunity for consideration, and that no name should be put upon those books without previous notice to that individual, in order that he might state whether it was correct or not?

Yes, it is possible; however, there may perhaps be some difficulties which do not at present present themselves to me in that proposition, but it would appear a very reasonable course; it would be giving in some measure an appeal before the parties' names were inserted, instead of an appeal afterwards.

8072. An amicable and easy appeal?

Yes.

8073. Are not you of opinion that if the books, previous to their signature by the Vice-Guardians, were left for inspection by the rate-payers, say for a fortnight, it would remove the necessity for a great many subsequent appeals?

I think it would.

8074. In answer to a question which was put to you, you said that in cases where the lessor was not named in the rate-book, there was a remedy against the land; will you explain that statement?

I mean that the land may be distrained.

8075. You mean that the property belonging to the occupiers of the land may be taken?

Yes.

8076. No matter whose property it may be, if it is found upon the land?

Yes.

8077. You did not mean that there was a remedy against the land itself?

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No, not a charge on the land, but the rate to be recovered by distress as rent.

8078. The real effect of the process to which you alluded in the recent answers you have given is, that in the case where the name of the lessor cannot be ascertained or entered, the process is against the occupier; because, whatever property is found upon the land, is assumed to be the property of the occupier?

It is not against him personally, but against his property, after the lapse of a certain time.

8079. And he would subsequently have the right to deduct it from the rent of the immediate lessor?

Yes.

8080. Have many cases come before you, arising out of the lands lying waste, and the question of liability for the rates attaching to unoccupied lands?

I cannot say many; one has arisen before me in the case of Lord Lucan.

8081. Will you describe that case?

There was a considerable holding, the tenant of which had been ejected by Lord Lucan, and possession taken under a *habere*. Lord Lucan was charged in the rate-book with those lands as occupier. His Lordship appealed, on the ground that they were waste and unproductive lands to him, and had not been occupied by any one, nor was there any stock upon them. As it was represented to me that a good deal of land was so circumstanced in the county of Mayo, I reserved my opinion; but I gave it at the last sessions, and held that Lord Lucan, who got possession of it under the *habere*, was the occupier, and chargeable.

8082. Was not the object of that appeal to show that the rates were leviable on the land only, and not against the proprietor, who had received no beneficial interest, and was not in occupation?

I do not exactly recollect the object, but Lord Lucan was rated; there was an appeal against it, whether he was liable or not, and I held that his Lordship was the occupier.

8083. You are aware, that under the Quarter-Acre Clause, in order to entitle a pauper to relief, he is called on to surrender the occupation of all above that quarter of an acre of land; supposing that the landlord does not resume the occupation, that there is, in fact, no surrender, but only a cessor of occupation on the part of the tenant, who would be liable in that case to the rate of that unoccupied land, the tenant having ceased to occupy, but not having surrendered it to his landlord?

I have had no cases of that kind before me.

8084. Within your own observation, and looking to the numerous facts which have come before you as Assistant Barrister, can you state whether a considerable portion of the land in Mayo is now unoccupied and lying waste?

A considerable portion.

8085. Do you consider the number of cattle and stock to have greatly diminished?

Greatly diminished; there is no question about it: I have heard of several farmers, one a very large farmer, who was obliged to give up a great many of his mountain farms from the insecurity from plunder.

8086. There being at the present moment an unexampled depression in the price of all stock in Ireland, not accounted for by the state of the British markets, do you connect that in any degree with the sales which are taking place, both for poor's rate, and also on the part of individuals who are afraid to hold their stock lest they should be plundered?

No doubt many dispose of stock from the difficulty of keeping it.

8087. Supposing a remedy were given for the recovery of arrears of poor's rate as against the fee and inheritance of land, what do you think the consequence of that would be in the county of Mayo?

I think that any remedy or any proceeding which will facilitate the transfer of land, will be of the greatest benefit; the transfer of any portion of land free from encumbrance to persons of capital will be of the greatest advantage.

8088. It

8088. It would be an ultimate benefit, according to the view which you have taken of the case; but supposing that by law at the present moment, in the present condition of the country, an immediate remedy were to be given by the Legislature going to the sale of the fee and inheritance of lands which are held in fee, what do you think the effect would be in other respects, besides that of changing the possession of such lands?

I think that reverts back to what I stated before, that it would be a great advantage, provided it could be effected.

8089. What do you consider to be the cause of the quantity of waste and uncultivated lands at the present moment, and of the sale of cattle in the way you have described?

I consider it to arise from the depreciation of the value of all property.

8090. What do you think has produced that in the county of Mayo?

I think the failure of the potato crop.

8091. Has there been other cause beyond the failure of the potato crop?

I think the failure of the potato crop has been the main instrument, and that the Poor Laws have had rather the effect of accelerating or of discovering the disease; the social disease had been progressing already; the famine has accelerated it, and the Poor Laws have had the same effect.

8092. Have not the amount of the rates which have been levied in the country, and the arrears of rate which are still impending, been active causes in preventing the cultivation of land?

I have no doubt they have.

8093. If they are active causes at the present moment in preventing the cultivation of land, if persons entering into the possession of land find themselves liable to arrears of poor-rate and of county-rate not due by themselves, but due by those who preceded them, do you anticipate, with any confidence, that those causes which now prevent the profitable cultivation of land, would not prevent the proper cultivation of land in other hands, all other circumstances remaining unaltered?

I think those charges continuing upon the land, and persons taking it subject to those charges, that might be so; but I think that such a state of circumstances would prevent persons from taking such lands.

8094. As far as they would prevent persons from taking them, they would prevent persons from purchasing that property, except at a great depreciation of value?

No doubt.

8095. You are acquainted, as a lawyer, with the proceedings in the Court of Chancery in respect to estates which have been brought into that Court of late years?

To some extent.

8096. Is there a great depreciation shown upon the value of those estates?

No doubt a great depreciation.

8097. In all parts of Ireland?

Not in all parts alike; it varies.

8098. Is not it the case, more or less, in all parts of Ireland?

More or less in all; less in those counties which have been less affected by the potato failure.

8099. Less in the county of Antrim and the county of Down?

Less in the county of Antrim and the county of Down.

8100. Are you able to state whether there has been a considerably increased depreciation even in those most favoured counties, since there has been an apprehension felt of a levy upon them of rates to assist the destitution of other counties?

I am not aware of that, and I think there has been scarcely time to ascertain practically what the effect of that would be.

8101. Viewing the magnitude of the debts which are now due for poor-relief

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purposes upon the various Unions, and the amount of arrears of rate uncollected, if that amount were to be levied by the sale of the inheritance of land in Ireland, must not the depreciation of property be still greater in amount?

No doubt; the more land for sale, the more its value will be depreciated.

8102. In cases where the rates are due from the occupying tenant, and the occupying tenant absconds, is not there a strong probability, and has not it come within your own judicial knowledge, that in cases of that description, he generally absconds with the rent as well as the rate?

In some cases he does, but rarely; in many cases, the people do not abscond till they are nearly destitute; but in all cases of this kind, many persons take advantage of the circumstances of the county, and with abundant means to pay, do not pay.

8103. Supposing the case of a tenant absconding with his landlord's rent, and great arrears of rate unpaid upon those lands, if there were a power given of selling off those lands for the arrears of rates so incurred, would not that be a manifest injustice to the owner of those lands, who had not incurred the rate, but who was made subject to the penalty of the sale of his estate, to pay a debt to which he was never liable?

Nothing could be more unjust than to saddle the owner with a debt which he never contracted.

8104. Are the Committee to understand your opinion to be, that the arrears of the poor-rate, and of the county cess which are accumulating, if they are made chargeable upon the land, that is upon the first estate of inheritance, will lead soon to the transfer of that land into other hands to any considerable amount?

I do not think it would lead to such a transfer to any considerable amount, because you would sell only a portion sufficient to discharge the arrears of rate due. To be sure, when property is very much depreciated, if you sell it, it will require the sale of a larger extent to pay even a small sum; but under ordinary circumstances, you would still dispose of but a very small portion of the land.

8105. With the apprehension of so extraordinary a remedy as the proposal, for the first time in the British empire, to sell the real estate for the amount of arrears due upon it, have you any doubt at all that that would produce a very extraordinary depression, which would require a large amount of land to be sold to satisfy a small debt? If there is suddenly thrown upon the market land enough to satisfy the whole amount of the Poor Law arrears and debts in the county of Mayo, can you entertain a doubt but that a much larger quantity of land must be sold to satisfy those arrears, than is contemplated in the ordinary proceedings of land sales?

No doubt, more than in ordinary times.

8106. If the change of possession, and the getting stable and solid and experienced farmers, is so great a gain as to be purchased at any cost, may not it be considered highly advantageous to the community that land should be depressed to the utmost point, in order to facilitate the change of possession?

In a social view, I think the sooner persons of capital are placed in possession of the land, who will cultivate and till it, so much the better for the commonwealth. It may operate very injuriously to individuals, but if you look to the preservation of the country, in fact to its social existence, you must resort, perhaps, sometimes to strong remedies to effect a cure.

8107. Unless you affirm the principle of *rem, quocunque modo, rem*, might not all those effects be gained by absolute confiscation, passing away, by Act of Parliament, into the hands of good farmers, the lands which are not now cultivated?

That would be too great a violation of the principles of justice.

8108. Is there any limitation as to the principles of justice; is there any less or greater amount of justice or injustice; can you consider anything but whether the measure is absolutely just or unjust?

But you must consider what the value of the property is in the hands of its present possessors, and if you find that in the hands of its present possessors it has no value at all, that they really have nothing but the occupation, which they cannot turn to any account, it then becomes a question whether every facility should

should not be given for the transfer of it into other hands. No doubt the only persons interested in it are the creditors; for with regard to most of the properties in Ireland, really to the occupants they are of little value; and yet in Ireland, the proprietor, though he has scarcely a remnant of an interest, clings with the same tenacity to the soil that the peasant does. He will allow it to be carved and cut up in the Court of Chancery, rather than at once dispose of it profitably, merely because it preserves his position for a while; and yet he is doing nothing; he cannot cultivate the land; he must get the rent by whatever means he can; the debts are accumulating, and consequently the property is of no value except to the creditors. Perhaps the creditors may think they had better get a reasonable portion at once, than get at the end of many years little or nothing, after it has been cut up in the Court of Chancery; so that you can hardly say that you confiscate the property of proprietors.

8109. Are not they the best judges of that themselves?
Then, look, on the other hand, at the general interests of the community; when society is reduced to such a state as it is in Ireland, you have to consider what are the general interests.

8110. In considering the general interests, if the land should be brought to sale for the county-cess and the poor-rates which are due upon it, do you think, in the West of Ireland, it would have the effect of introducing capitalists and good farmers as the owners of that land?
I will not undertake to say that it would, but I think it is the best course to attain the object.

8111. You said that the land would require to be sold in small lots?
I did not say that it must be in small lots, I think.

8112. I understood you to say that you could only sell a small portion on account of the arrears?
The rate being a small sum.

8113. Is the rate a small sum in proportion to the value of the land in the Barony of Erris or in Comerara?
In some cases, where the land is of very little value from the loss of tenants, I will not undertake to say that you would get persons to purchase it; but I suppose, in reference to the ordinary value of land, that the sale of a very small portion of land would pay the rate.

8114. Referring to the inferior qualities of land, which, it may be presumed, are among those which it would be most desirable to improve, if two years or more of county-cess, and if two or three years of poor's rates are left uncollected, may not the amount of those debts approach very nearly to the value of the fee-simple of the land?
I think they may; with the continued depreciation of the property, the subject-matter decreasing, and the charge increasing.

8115. And the social and the moral evils, and the state of crime to which you have alluded, adding very much to the depreciation?
Yes.

8116. It is with reference to those circumstances that I should be glad to have your opinion, whether, if the land be sold in the way in which it must be sold to satisfy such claims as I have alluded to, capitalists would really purchase; or do not you think that persons having property already in the country might take advantage of those circumstances, if they have the means, to add to their present estates?
Perhaps if you were to take Mayo; persons would rather take other counties if there were a sale. If it were limited to Mayo, such is the desire of persons having money to invest it in land, that if they got a clear title they would go there; I speak of small capital, with 2,000*l.* or 3,000*l.*; farmers who would be anxious to get rid of the rent and all the inconveniences attending the payment of it by legal proceedings. They would wish to get land in that way, and would go to Mayo, but if they got other counties they would certainly prefer it.

8117. You appear to attach great importance to a clear Parliamentary title?
Certainly.

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8118. What class of capitalists do you allude to when you speak of the desire of purchasing land in Ireland; are the persons to whom you allude Irishmen, or persons from other parts of the United Kingdom, and of what class of people do you suppose them to be?

I think they are Irishmen engaged in agriculture, who have accumulated some money.

8119. You contemplate that they would purchase single farms, not as proprietors of the estates?

Not as proprietors of the estates, who would require a tenantry, but persons who would purchase what they could farm themselves. There may be some other classes too, but I think persons who look for a tenantry would be unwilling to go to Mayo.

8120. Is it your opinion that there is still a considerable amount of capital in Ireland among persons engaged in agricultural pursuits?

No, it is not; but I think there is some; and certainly up to the period of the famine, there was more capital in Ireland than any person would give the country credit for.

8121. Is there any such class as that of which you have been speaking in the county to which these questions refer?

I think not; I think they are nearly gone.

8122. Your expectation would be that some such persons would settle in Mayo, from other parts of Ireland?

Yes; that would be the commencement.

8123. They would become proprietors in Mayo, having been renters in other parts of Ireland?

Yes.

8124. At present the poor-rate is payable by the occupant in the first instance?

Yes, unless where the value is under 4*l.*

8125. In the event of the sale of property for the arrears of poor's rate, would not the remedy be the sale of the respective occupations upon which the arrears have accumulated, not contemplating the sale of an occupation on which there was no arrears in satisfaction of the arrears due upon another occupation?

Assuming the land to be waste, then it would be in the management of the proprietor.

8126. Supposing there has been no surrender to him, though there has been a desertion on the part of the tenant, and that, therefore, if a lease were pending, he would be a wrong-doer if he entered in and took possession; supposing those lands to be sold, must not the parcel of land which was subject to arrears, and so lying waste, be sold?

Yes.

8127. And then the only thing that could be sold would be the interest of the occupier?

Yes.

8128. Take a case where there is no lease; supposing a tenant to abscond, having two or three years of rates and cesses due upon a holding, valued, say, at 12*l.* a year, if that land were sold, be it fee-simple or be it leasehold, it must be sold quite apart, and without connexion with any other land, must it not?

Yes.

8129. Therefore, no stranger would think it worth his while to buy such a portion of land as that, I should presume?

I should say not.

8130. There would be an inconvenience in bringing land to sale in that mode, would there not?

Certainly; the sale, as it struck my mind, was where rates had accumulated upon land which had been deserted, and the owner had control of it, and had entered into possession. If rent be due, he may evict the lessee for non-payment of rent; if there be a lease, he may evict the land in the Assistant Barrister's court as deserted; and there is no limitation of rent. One of the defects at present existing is, that it is difficult to know what constitutes desertion. There is also another defect: in the Assistant Barrister's court, unless there be a lease of

of the lands, it has been held that the Act giving a remedy for the recovery of deserted premises does not apply; therefore, the same jurisdiction, I think, should be given, to the effect that the Act enabling the landlord to get possession of waste holdings should apply to parol lettings, as well as to lettings by lease, because there is no means of getting possession of the land; the lands are waste, and the landlord may expose himself to difficulty if he enters.

8131. Let us take the case of an impoverished estate, which is under a Receiver of the Equity Courts, from which no rents, or not sufficient rents to meet the charges and incumbrances upon the estate, have been received within the year, and suppose that the occupying tenant had neglected to pay the rates and the cesses, and had deserted the land, and proceedings are taken to bring the land to sale, it would become, undoubtedly, a question for the proprietor of the estate, or his representative; but how could the Receiver prevent those lands from being sold out?

The Receiver could not prevent it.

8132. According to the hypothesis, there would be no funds in hand to pay the amount due; the amount might be nearly the value of the fee-simple of the land; what would be the course which you would contemplate would take place in such a case?

The case contemplated by your Lordship is where property is in the hands of the Court of Chancery, and Receivers appointed, and nothing received; if anything is received, the rates would be one of the first payments; if the rates be not paid, and nothing is received, in that case it is a *damnosa hereditas.*

8133. Another proprietor might raise the money upon his estate to meet the temporary difficulty; but in the case I have presumed, under the pressure of the moment, the lands would be brought to sale for the rates and cesses?

In that case they would, if it could be permitted. I cannot understand how property can be sold for the rates, unless the person who is liable, and who ought to pay the rates, is the owner in fee; even supposing he be tenant for life, you can only sell the tenancy for life.

8134. You do not contemplate that the fee-simple of the land should be sold without regard to the remainder-man?

No; I do not see how that could be done.

8135. Neither can be done without an Act of Parliament?

Certainly.

8136. In the case of a tenant for life, would not selling anything beyond his interest, in your opinion, be grossly unjust?

In the abstract it appears to be an injustice; but you must take it in reference to what the condition of the country requires. The question is, can you save the country? for it becomes, in fact, a question of safety, whether civilization and the social system are to go on.

8137. The question really is, whether these rates and cesses are to be chargeable upon the land, because, if they are, of course you cannot regard the limited interest of a nominal owner?

You cannot, if they become a charge to precede all other charges.

8138. They partake of the nature of the liability of land to debts incurred under the Land Improvement Act?

Yes; and the question is, whether the condition of the country does not require it. In the abstract it might be unjust, if property were in its ordinary state; but if you find that the condition of things will be, that property will be of no value to anybody; that it will neither pay the occupier nor the incumbrancer, but will be a waste, and therefore an incumbrance, upon the community; it becomes a question whether something should not be done to preserve the social system. There are many instances of partial interests being deeply affected, where they stood in the way of general improvement.

8139. I understand you that you have never, in any of these cases of sale, contemplated the sale of anything more than the interest which the defaulter happens to have in the land?

That appears to me to be, in the abstract, just; anything more would appear

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to me to be unjust, if expediency or the condition of the country did not require more to be done.

8140. Do you think that the sale of the interest of a tenant for life would, in many instances, bring fresh capital into the country?

I think not the sale of the interest of the tenant for life; nobody would invest capital upon it, and improve the land upon so limited a tenure.

8141. Then if you are to have regard to the remainder-man, and the reversionary interests, the selling up of the limited ownership of the land for those rates would not bring capital into the country?

I should say not.

8142. That would not be serviceable?

No; I do not think selling the life interest would meet the difficulty; if it were expedient to sell at all, it would be stopping short of what would accomplish the fee; you must get to the fee.

8143. If the arrears which accumulate upon the land while in the occupancy of the tenant are to remain a charge upon that land, and therefore, in fact, ultimately a charge upon the proprietor, would not it be right and just that the proprietor should have the power of either removing the tenant for the non-payment of rates, or else enforcing the collection of the rates from that tenant?

Certainly, if he is to be liable for them, he ought to have every facility of removing a defaulting tenant.

8144. You stated, in a former part of your evidence, that you considered the Poor Law to have been one of the active causes in operation, though a minor one, in producing the present distressed state of the Western part of Ireland; do you apply that observation to what has occurred since the famine, or to the operation of the Poor Law previously to the famine?

Since the famine.

8145. You consider that up to the period of the famine the Poor Law did not work disadvantageously for the country?

I do not think that it worked disadvantageously; nor, on the other hand, did it work so advantageously as I had expected; that is, in making the landlord take such an interest in the tenant as would induce him to look after his condition. That is what I expected from the Poor Law; but it is only since the Poor Law became so burdensome to the landlord, that he has felt so deep an interest in the condition of the tenant.

8146. Do not you think that the tenantry are much better looked after than they were?

No, because they did not begin to look after them till they were almost beyond redemption.

8147. You think that the division of the poor-rate between the landlord and the tenant is a wise and proper regulation?

Yes; circumstanced as Ireland is, any thing which makes the landlord feel an interest in and look after the tenant, and see that he farms well, and will be able to pay the charges, otherwise that the landlord will have to pay a portion of them, is useful.

8148. And you consider the Poor Law *pro tanto* to have that effect?

I consider that the Poor Law, since the famine, has had the effect of making them look after the condition of the tenantry, and the condition of their own estates, which they did not do before, until the Poor Law made it necessary. It is only since the famine that the Poor Law has become so burdensome to the landlord, and he has been obliged to look after the condition of his property and his tenantry. As I stated before, even with respect to the county-cess, the landlord never looked after it while it remained only a charge upon the tenant; but as soon as any charge affected himself, he found himself obliged to look after the condition of the tenantry. When first the Poor Law came into operation, if the landlords had looked after their tenantry and their estates as they have done since the famine, it is not improbable that the tenantry would have been in a better condition to meet the famine.

8149. What

8149. What do you mean by the expression which you use, of "looked after?"
Looked to see how the tenant is cultivating his land, and generally after his condition and circumstances.

8150. Supposing he finds a tenant to be going on badly, what power has the landlord?
He has moral influence, which always produces effect.

8151. He has no actual power?
He has no legal power but what depends on the contract between him and the tenant; but every good landlord has moral power.

8152. How long would it take for a landlord to make a change in the tenantry?
It would depend very much upon the energy of the proprietor, and the nature of the tenancy.

8153. How long an interval would the law impose before he could make such a change?
Twelve months; if the tenant owed a year's rent, you might bring an ejectment, or if he were a tenant from year to year, eject him on a notice to quit.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till Tuesday next, One o'clock.

Die Martis, 1° *Maii* 1849.

The LORD STEWARD in the Chair.

Captain THOMAS AISKEW LARCOM, Royal Engineers, is called in, and examined as follows:

8154. YOU have been for several years in the employment of the Government in Ireland?

Yes, for 20 years.

8155. Will you state the different situations that you have held?

First, I was employed on the trigonometrical operations of the Ordnance Survey in the field, and in 1828 I was removed to the Head-quarter Office in Dublin, and had charge of that office, and the engraving and publication of the Survey. I remained in that office, having been employed also on several other Commissions, such as the Reform Boundary Commissions, both Parliamentary and Municipal, the Census, and some other duties in Ireland more or less connected with the Survey, till 1846, when the maps being brought to a close, my duties in that respect terminated, and I was appointed a Commissioner of the Board of Works, which I still am; and in 1848 I was also directed to take charge of the Commission for reporting on what alterations might be beneficially made in the number and boundaries of Poor Law Unions and Electoral Divisions in Ireland.

8156. Have you made the return which you were directed to make by this Committee at the commencement of its sittings?

Yes—[*producing the same*].

8157. That is, "A Return showing the Number of Estates in each Poor Law Union and Electoral Division of Ireland," divided into 17 classes, from under 50*l.* to 5,000*l.* and upwards, and setting forth the area, the number of persons, the number of dwellings, and the value of the different classes of estates, according to the Poor Law valuation?

Just so.

8158. Will you state the data upon which you have founded the various facts contained in that Return?

It has been made, in part, from materials collected by us in the course of our inquiries, in part from the Agricultural Returns collected by the constabulary, and other documents. The first were to enable us to test the complaints we thought likely to arise in answer to the queries which we addressed to the Boards of Guardians, and the several members of those Boards individually, in all the Poor Law Unions in Ireland. It was probable that those complaints would turn very much on the boundaries of the Electoral Divisions not being conterminous with properties. It was known that that was a very common class of complaint, and to enable us to judge of those complaints, it was necessary that we should know what were the boundaries of properties in Ireland; and we obtained through the Poor Law Commissioners, and from the Clerks of the several Boards of Guardians, a Return stating the proprietor of every townland in Ireland, with its value, and various other information. We then transferred the information so obtained to the large six-inch sheets of the Ordnance Survey, which show, with their boundaries, the topographical details of every townland in Ireland; and in this way we embodied the information which we had obtained

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in a tabular form, on the face of the townland maps. We then reduced those maps to a smaller scale, so as to exhibit on the Index maps, as they are called, the boundaries of the estates, made up from the combination of the townlands which the larger maps contained, and by that we were enabled to compare the boundaries of the existing Electoral Divisions at one view with the boundaries of property. An example of the maps so formed, with the mode of using them, I have here for the inspection of your Lordships. The information which these maps and returns, together with the agricultural returns, and other material which was available to us, gave us the means of making the Table now before the Committee.

8159. In the manner you have described, you sought to ascertain the proprietor of each estate?
Yes.

8160. What do you understand by the word "proprietor"?
Our object was to ascertain who was the proprietor in fee; that was our effort, and which was more or less successful. I can explain in a future stage the test that we mean to put that to.

8161. It does not follow, from the Returns that you have made, that the proprietors, represented to be the proprietors in fee of an estate to a large amount, are necessarily in the receipt of the income of that estate?
By no means; there may be many sub-tenures.

8162. There may be, under each head of property, as classed in your Return, a greater number of proprietors between whom the actual value so described is divided?
Decidedly; the intermediate proprietors and interests are so numerous and complicated, that we were unable to ascertain them; there was no one class so intelligible as the proprietor in fee.

8163. Suppose this case not an imaginary one, but a real one; an estate of 11,000 acres of land, of which the proprietor in fee, or his ancestors, had made a lease for 41 years, renewable every 40th year at an unchanged rate, and upon a fixed and determinate fine, namely, one year's rent, who would be returned in your list, in that case, as proprietor? would it be the actual lessor, who is subject to the covenant as to the renewal of that lease, or the lessees, who are many, who are the persons beneficially interested in the land?
Our wish was to obtain the proprietor in fee, but I do not apprehend that this Return is critically correct in that respect. It is probable that the clerks of the Unions were not aware always who was the proprietor in fee, and they may in some cases have returned the immediate lessor, or the person most known to them.

8164. Do you suppose that the parties making the Return to you were guided in their view of the proprietorship of the estate by the circumstance of the parties whom they returned as proprietors paying the landlord's portion of the poor-rate?
I should think they were guided by the rate-books; I have no means of knowing what other sources of information they had.

8165. Those rate-books would chiefly have reference to the party paying as landlord, and the party paying as occupier, would they not?
I am not myself familiar with the rate-books.

8166. For the "Number of Persons," you took the Census of 1841?
Yes, there was no later.

8167. And the valuation, in all cases, under the Poor Law Act?
The best valuation is Mr. Griffith's valuation, when it is available.

8168. Do you mean the townland valuation?
Yes, when we have not got his tenement valuation, but neither of them extends to the whole kingdom. Where Mr. Griffith's valuation is not complete, we are obliged to take the Poor Law valuation alone; and in our more full tables, of which this is an abstract, we give separate columns for the two valuations, as is shown in this Table—[*pointing to the printed Tables of Ballina*].

8169. You

8169. You have stated in this Paper, "according to the Poor Law Valuation:" I apprehend that we used the Poor Law valuation for this Return, because it extends over the whole country.

8170. It is essential to know whether one uniform valuation was taken for the whole?

The Poor Law valuation is far from uniform, and our wish always is to use Mr. Griffiths's, because it is the most uniform.

8171. You say that the Poor Law valuation is very far from uniform?

So I understand, but it is the most general; it extends over the whole country, which Mr. Griffith's, as yet, does not.

8172. In the First Report of the Commissioners respecting the boundaries of the Poor Law Unions, there is a Table, giving the properties in the Ballina Union; will you inform the Committee whether that Paper is made out from the same data and the same sources of information that this general Return on the table is?

It is.

8173. Have you had any opportunity of being informed of the correctness or incorrectness of this Return?

We have not put it to any public test, waiting till the Government have decided as to what shall be done towards carrying out the Report. Our intention is to make it public ultimately, with the new divisions we propose, and then in that way it will be put to the test of scrutiny in the country.

8174. If it has been stated to this Committee that this Return, as far as the Union of Ballina is concerned, is totally incorrect, how far would you coincide with that opinion?

I cannot suppose for a moment that it is totally incorrect; there are some columns that one can answer for without hesitation. The area is correct; it is taken from the Ordnance Survey. The estimate of the lands under crops in 1847 depends upon a Paper already presented to Parliament; I see no reason to doubt its correctness. It was collected by the Police in 1847 with great care. The number of holdings depends upon the same authority; I do not apprehend that it is likely to be very wrong. The number of families and persons, and the class of their residence, four columns, depend upon the Census of 1841, which has never been questioned; I cannot believe that to be incorrect. The valuation by Mr. Griffiths has been already published a considerable number of years, has been in operation in that county, and has never been questioned; I cannot doubt the two columns relating to that. The valuation under the Poor Law Act may or may not be correct as a valuation, but this is a correct Return of that valuation as it is now in use; I cannot doubt its correctness on that point; that takes two more columns. I come next to the column containing the average extent of land under crops belonging to each person; that is obtained by dividing one column by another, and if they are correct, it must be so too. The column which contains the names of the proprietors may be doubtful, from the doubt which rests upon the term "proprietors," and I have already explained the test to which it is ultimately intended to put that. Now I have disposed of every column, and I cannot admit that a Return can be considered "totally incorrect," when there is no doubt except on one column, which does not profess to be corrected.

8175. You do not entertain the same confidence with respect to the correctness of the "proprietors" column?

No.

8176. In the Return now in question, no names of proprietors are given?

No.

8177. Do you believe the number of properties given under the several classes to be more correct than the Return of the proprietors?

I should think it is; the doubt will rest whether the person who has been called by the Clerk of a Union the proprietor, is the proprietor in fee; that it is a property under some tenure there can be little doubt; the name of the party may be another question.

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8178. Do you consider a person to be a proprietor in fee, when he is a proprietor of a lease for lives renewable for ever?

No, he would not be. This is one of the anomalies and difficulties which beset all questions as to the liabilities of property in Ireland.

8179. Was the Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into the number and boundaries of Poor Law Unions and Electoral Divisions in Ireland drawn up under your authority, and with your full concurrence?

Yes, it was.

8180. Do you still adhere to the opinions expressed in that Report?

Entirely.

8181. Nothing that has since occurred has led you to alter in any respect the views which you there expressed?

On the contrary, every inquiry and every circumstance that has come to our knowledge has tended to confirm the opinions expressed in that Report.

8182. Have you had many communications in the meanwhile with landed proprietors and others, in order to enable you to test your first recommendation by discrepancies of opinion or experience brought to bear from local sources upon your recommendation?

We have; and it has been very satisfactory to find that many proprietors who have come prepared to dissent from us, and to disapprove of the line which we had adopted, on a fuller explanation and fuller examination of the grounds on which we are acting, have gone away generally very well satisfied. In fact, I have no hesitation in saying, that I think the views of every proprietor and of every party may be perfectly met in this question, so far as they are compatible with one another. There are many people, no doubt, who have advocated the subdivision of rating into townlands, and others into single properties, and there have been advocates of other opinions equally extreme; but a very short explanation has generally sufficed to satisfy them all, that they could not wholly carry out their views without very great injury to others or to the community.

8183. You still adhere to the opinion expressed in this Report, that, with a view of carrying the Poor Law advantageously into operation, there should be the means, in all cases, of applying the Workhouse test?

I still adhere to my opinion expressed in the Report, that the Workhouse test is the most satisfactory, and indeed the only test that possesses any efficacy at all. One view, however, in dividing the Unions, and proposing smaller ones, is not only with a view to the imposition of the Workhouse test as a protection against relief being obtained by people who do not require it, but also as placing the Workhouse as a house of refuge within the reach of all the poor people of the country. On the one hand, it was exceedingly necessary to take care that no people should receive relief who did not require it; but, on the other hand, it was equally necessary that they should all have access to some one or other house of relief; and both those considerations tended to a reduction of the Unions.

8184. Do you consider the present state of Ireland, and that in which it has been since the occurrence of the potato famine, as an exceptional case; and have you, in the recommendation contained in your Report, directed your attention, not to the course to be pursued in an exceptional case, but with a view to the permanent and beneficial operation of the Poor Law in Ireland?

Our view has been to provide for the ordinary circumstances of the country, which have been, no doubt, exceedingly aggravated, and thrown into much stronger relief, by the late distress. There is nothing in the present circumstances that contradicts the advisability of the arrangements one should wish to make permanently; they are merely placed in much stronger relief and made more prominent by the recent distress.

8185. Supposing you had been dealing with the divisions of Unions in Ireland at the first introduction of the Poor Law, should you have made, or should you have recommended, an adherence to the existing divisions of Unions, or, for the reasons you have stated, would you have preferred dividing the larger Unions into smaller ones?

I should prefer dividing the larger Unions. If I were acting on the original instructions

instructions issued by the Poor Law Commissioners, I should come to the conclusion which is indicated in this Report. I would not, in that case, have made precisely the same boundaries as are now recommended. I do not find the country now a *tabula rasa*, but it is already occupied by Unions; the houses are there built.

8186. Viewing the question in the abstract from the outset, do you conceive that it would have been more advantageous to the public interest that a smaller area of Unions should have been given, more especially in the West and in the South?

Decidedly. I have a map here which shows how seven-miles Unions would divide the country—[*producing the same.*]—This is a map exhibiting the positions of the present Workhouses, with a circle of seven miles radius drawn round each of the present 130 Workhouses, by which the Committee will perceive that considerable tracts of the country are left wholly without Workhouse accommodation. Within those tracts we propose to erect the new houses, their position being also shown on this map, and surrounded by a circle of the same radius in another colour.

8187. When you say that you would apportion the Workhouses to the country now, and that you would add a considerable number, are you not aware that at the time the Poor Law was first brought into operation, there was a considerable difficulty found in inducing the country to consent to the erection even of the first limited number of 110 Workhouses?

Yes, I recollect that I heard that at the time; I was not employed then.

8188. The number first contemplated was 110, and subsequently they were increased to 130?

Yes.

8189. And in the larger districts, in the West of Ireland particularly, great difficulty was found even in obtaining the erection of the Workhouses that were first built there?

I have no knowledge of that; I was not at all connected with the Poor Law administration at the time. I cannot doubt that such was the case, as it would require a large sum of money. I think it is germane to a question that has been put, to say that the object of the Workhouses then was very different; out-door relief was not contemplated.

8190. Do the Committee understand you to say that when your present plan is carried into effect, it will bring all parts of the country within seven miles of a Poor-house?

As nearly as possible, under present circumstances. It will approximate to it. There are still mountain districts, containing very poor people, which will not be brought within that distance, but the object has been to approximate to that distance as much as possible.

8191. Will you have the goodness to state some of the leading cases of excess of distance which exist under the present Union divisions in Ireland?

The Union of Ballina, which was chosen for a type in this Report, is so large that the remote parts are 40 miles, I think, from the house.

8192. It was stated by a former witness, Colonel Clark, that in the Union of Kenmare, there is likewise a distance of 40 miles to be travelled. Are there not distances in other Unions, and that in no very inconsiderable number, which operate injuriously, in your judgment, for the two purposes for which those houses were intended, namely, the relief of the destitute, and as a check to improper and fraudulent demands?

One could easily name several; and your Lordships may perceive them by inspection of this map. Here is the Union of Westport before me; the remote part of Achill cannot be less than 35 or 40 miles from the house at Westport; and the whole of Clew Bay lies between them; that is one of the Unions which we propose to divide into two parts.

8193. Have any cases come within your knowledge illustrative of the extreme hardship which these distances produce upon the destitute poor?

Many cases have been stated to us of the difficulty that people found in reaching the houses; I heard of cases in which poor people had died by the way;

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we did not think it necessary to make detailed inquiries into the particular cases; they were notorious and patent to everybody.

8194. In relation to the distance which an applicant for relief has had frequently to travel, have you had any remonstrances made?
It has been mentioned that a poor man had to walk 150 miles before he was relieved; and I saw, a few days ago, in a paper, a statement as to a man ho walked to a house a considerable number of miles, and was rejected, and died on the road.

8195. With reference to the town of Arklow, on the eastern coast, would that be within seven miles distance of the Poor-house or the Electoral Division, which is still further than the town?
It is about half way between the Union houses of Rathdrum and Gorey, and is not, I think, more than eight or nine miles from either. We have not proposed any alteration there in regard to the Unions.

8196. The Electoral Division of Arklow?
Yes; it is shown on this map; some parts of it are within seven miles, I think.

8197. When you speak of miles, do you mean Irish or English miles?
English miles.

8198. In the list of new Unions which you have put down, have you put them down in your view of the pressure of the respective cases, so as to enable the Committee to conclude that it is your judgment that No. 1, case Belmullet, is more pressing than No. 50, the case of Kilrea?
We endeavoured to put them down, as far as we could, in the order of their urgency. I have here a rough memorandum for my own guidance. The Poor Law Commissioners had already resolved on erecting a house at Belmullet; the case was so striking, but had made no arrangement for separating it from Ballina. We place that first in order of the new Unions; the others follow in succession, till we come to Kilrea, which we consider of comparatively little importance, because the country is very well circumstanced. Many representations, however, have been made of the advantages of a Union there, arising chiefly from the property around it being unconnected altogether with the county of Antrim, and connected with the county of Derry, within which it lies; the circumstances of it stand thus. It is proposed to be formed from two Electoral Divisions, at present in Magherafelt Union, four from Ballymoney Union, and three from Coleraine Union. The Guardians of Magherafelt and Ballymoney are in favour of the change, but the Coleraine Board is opposed to it. The following influential individuals have also advocated the change: Sir Robert Ferguson, M. P.; Mr. Bateson, M. P.; Sir Edward M'Naghten; Mr. Moore; Mr. Macartney; Mr. Spottiswood, and Mr. Bicknell, agent to the London Drapers Company; area 64,668; population 32,663; value 30,362*l.*; distances from the Workhouses of the adjoining Unions—from Coleraine, 14 miles; Ballymoney, 9; Ballymena, 12; Magherafelt, 13½; Newtown Limavaddy, 17½. Your Lordships will see that the distance of the centre of this Union is considerable, from the surrounding Unions; yet we do not consider that so pressing a case as any of the others, and accordingly we placed it at the bottom of our list.

8199. Are those distances English or Irish miles?
English.

8200. In giving this recommendation for 50 new Unions, have you contemplated the necessary and essential part of the change; the erection of separate Workhouses in each of those new Unions?
I think that it is useless to proclaim any Union without a Workhouse; the Workhouse is the very soul of the Union.

8201. Might it not be found, not only useless, but mischievous, if an attempt were made to have two Unions, in one of which the Workhouse was situated, and in the other of which the Workhouse, not being situated, might lead to collisions between the Boards of Guardians?
Our object in proposing new Unions was, that there should be a house in each; if a house is not created, the Union does not exist, in my mind.

8202. You

8202. You consider it more essential that there should be a new house within each of the divisions you have laid down, than that there should be a separate Board of Guardians in each?

I consider the erection of a Workhouse the most essential thing; the government of it will follow. It was very difficult at first to find 130 Boards of Guardians, and there would be a great difficulty in finding 50 more; but I do not doubt that they will be found, and by degrees will work satisfactorily.

8203. By recommending that, in the first instance, in some districts, the new Workhouses should be considered as subsidiary houses, and subject to the power of the Board at the parent Union?

That detail of executive government would rest more with the Poor Law Commissioners. We feel strongly the importance of having a Workhouse, within the space of which we recommend that the Electoral Divisions should be grouped into a Union, and that ultimately there should be a separate Board of Guardians for that house. At present there may be great difficulties in working some of the new Unions, and it will be for the judgment of the Poor Law Commissioners to work them as they think best, by Vice-Guardians or other means; but those are temporary expedients.

8204. Have you not made a recommendation that where the Board of Guardians in any one of the new Unions might be weak in point of numbers, or in the position and education of the parties, that that difficulty might be met, at least for a time, by associating with that Board of Guardians a responsible and paid officer to assist in their duties?

That has been often recommended, and we have, I believe, in this Report suggested that as one of the modes in which it may be done; but it belongs rather to the executive functions of the Poor Law Commissioners than to our recommendation. Our view is, that it would be better to have new Unions and Workhouses, even with these temporary expedients, than to leave things as they are.

8205. That suggestion being contained in your Report, will you state whether, in your judgment, the government of the house by a local Board of Guardians, with a resident officer, would not be more likely to be effectual than bringing the two houses under the management of one Board of Guardians sitting at the very place which, by the hypothesis which renders a division necessary, is extremely distant from the more remote part?

It would be decidedly better.

8206. Do you consider the question of the division of Unions, and the division of Electoral Divisions, to be so totally distinct as to be entitled to a separate consideration?

They hang very much together, the necessity for them; so much so, that I think if the new Electoral Divisions were carried into effect without the Unions, the changes would lose very much of their utility.

8207. Supposing no change to be made in the Electoral Divisions at all, and that they were allowed to remain as they are; still, in those great Unions, would your opinion respecting the necessity of dividing them continue unchanged?

I apprehend it would.

8208. Have you considered at all the cost of the Workhouses first built, and do you consider that the same amount of expense would be required in the smaller Unions for those which are now about to be built?

We have ascertained the expense of building the present houses, and it averages 12*l.* a head for the persons accommodated; they vary very much in size, from houses affording accommodation for 200 to 300 up to a house for 1,400 paupers, in some places. My impression—but I speak from memory—is, that the Castlederg house affords accommodation for 200 people, and the Limerick house accommodation for 1,400. Now, the houses that would be necessary for the Unions that we recommend would be all of a moderate class, giving, on an average, accommodation to 400 or 500 persons.

8209. What would be the size of the largest of the new ones?

To hold probably about 600 or 800.

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8210. Did not the want of adequate in-door accommodation during the late distressing times lead to the necessity of the erection of temporary buildings in many instances, and temporary provision, by hiring auxiliary houses, where the temporary accommodation could not be given in the existing Workhouses?

No doubt to a very considerable extent, and also to the enlargement of the present houses; it would, I think, in most cases, have been better to have spent the money in building another house.

8211. Has that not led in many instances to the erection of temporary sheds and buildings, of which the permanent value will be but small as compared with the expense which has been locally and temporarily incurred?

I cannot doubt that it has; but it was necessary, no doubt, at the time.

8212. So far as that excess of expenditure has existed, and as it may be apprehended that it will be continued if the pressure continues and extends, may not that be considered as a set-off against the expense that would be incurred by new Union Workhouses?

I have no doubt that new Union Workhouses will be found cheaper in the end, than the maintenance of the temporary accommodation which has been necessary.

8213. You have not stated the exact amount that would be necessary for building each of the new Workhouses which you propose?

I have stated that it will differ with their size; the average size will be to contain from 400 to 500. The whole sum that will be necessary for Ireland, supposing it simultaneously carried out over the whole country, would be about 250,000*l.* or 300,000*l.*; but I should not contemplate or recommend, knowing the great financial difficulties of the country at the present time, that it should be done all at once. I would suggest at first the building of 10 or 20 houses, which would require perhaps 60,000*l.* You could not build even the whole of them in the first year, so that 30,000*l.* or 40,000*l.* even might be enough to begin with.

8214. From what source do you calculate you can get this money?

We sought to keep the expense as low as possible, but it was not within our province to consider from what source the funds should be provided.

8215. In respect to the effect that might, in your judgment, be produced by the establishment of those new Unions and those new Workhouses, have you any doubt that with respect to the general expenses of Poor Law relief, there would be a great saving by a greater efficiency of the Workhouse test, and a diminution of out-door relief?

I cannot doubt that very great economy must result from it in every one of those particulars.

8216. Do you not think that if such new Unions were established, and Workhouses specially adapted for Poor Law purposes were built, a better discipline and a more rigid enforcement of the rules might not be relied on, than in the over-crowded houses, or in houses built for other purposes, but hired for Workhouses?

No doubt about it.

8217. Have you any doubt at all that the enforcement of discipline, rule and order, is one of the most useful and operative means of applying the Workhouse test in Ireland?

Decidedly.

8218. You have spoken of the excessive expenditure which had been incurred with respect to the present Union Workhouses, have you not?

I said very great; I do not think it was excessive.

8219. You spoke of the great expenditure that had been incurred in the subsequent additions to the present Union Workhouses in Ireland?

I said I understood additions had been made.

8220. Do you consider that the expenditure was extravagant in the original erection of those Workhouses?

I have heard a good deal said upon that subject, but I do not see any reason to suppose that it was so; it must have been an exceedingly expensive operation, and

and very difficult to control the expenditure on the erection of 130 houses all at once over the whole country. I do not see any reason for thinking that the expenditure was excessive.

8221. Without necessarily assuming that there was an undue expenditure at that time, have you any doubt that the experience that has been acquired in the erection of the 130 Workhouses already existing, must lead to a better principle of construction, and a saving in the construction of those that remain to be erected?

No doubt, I think, it clearly must; besides which, the erection even of a smaller number alone would be vastly easier.

8222. Will you state to the Committee, whether you have communicated with any of the Boards of Guardians on the subject of the proposed division of Unions?

We have made known to all existing Boards of Guardians the change which we propose to make in the present Unions.

8223. Did you do that in writing, and have you got their answers?

We did it by circular, a copy of which is annexed to our Report; the answers are all in the office in Dublin; some, I think, did not answer them at all.

8224. Without going into detail, what was the general import of those answers; was it, generally speaking, affirmative or negative?

They were very much mixed; I think the subject was sometimes misunderstood; some of the Boards appeared to think that as the letter related only to the Unions, we were not about to propose any alterations, except alterations of Unions, and they thought that alterations of Electoral Divisions were of greater or of as great importance; they misunderstood our circular in that respect.

8225. On the part of many who may have expressed a negative opinion on the subject, were you able distinctly to trace that negative opinion to a doubt with respect to the funds from whence the expense of building those new houses would come?

That question was, by one of the Boards, I recollect, distinctly asked, and we answered, as we have done to this Committee, that we had no information on that subject.

8226. Are you not able to state to the Committee, from the communications you have received, not only from Boards of Guardians, but from individuals who have communicated with you, that very great uncertainty exists with respect to the mere fact, whether they will obtain the same assistance from the public in building the new houses that was given for the old?

There is very great doubt upon that point. I think I saw not long since, an answer from the Poor Law Commissioners to some Union which had asked that question, saying that they were not aware of any source from which it should be derived, except their own funds, and I have no doubt that great uncertainty exists on that subject.

8227. Viewing the present state of the Union accounts, as laid before the Committee, and as must be known publicly to you, do you not consider that no expectation of being able to provide the funds for building those Workhouses from mere local resources, without the same help that was given towards the erection of the previous Workhouses, would lead to the failure of the plan?

I should fear that it would be impossible for the Unions to build the houses themselves in their present state, because the positions which we propose for them are, generally speaking, the poorest parts of the country.

8228. At the time when the former Workhouses were built, Ireland was in a state of comparative general prosperity?

Yes, it was; 1839, 1840, and 1841 were average years.

8229. At the present time, when the condition of Ireland is so far different, do you think that it is reasonable to expect, assuming the necessity of creating those new Unions, and the consequent necessity of building new Workhouses, that the funds should be locally provided, without help?

If it was impossible to provide them under more favourable circumstances,

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when the first houses were erected, I should think that it would be quite hopeless to expect it now.

8230. Did not the Boards of Guardians, to which you communicated your intentions, generally object to it, on the ground of additional expense, in consequence of the staffs that would be created?

That objection was frequently made, and, in some cases, we inquired into it specially, and we found that they were, in those Unions, already employing additional officers; they had double matrons, they had a double staff of surgeons, double masters for the house, and additional clerks, so that in fact the additional staff would have supplied a staff for the new house.

8231. Was not that generally the case in the instances in which you inquired into the circumstances, after having received such communications?

I did not say generally; in some cases it was so.

8232. Were you enabled to satisfy the parties who took that view, that their view was an erroneous one, and that, in point of fact, there would be no material addition to the expense?

That has been constantly our argument, and I have not heard it refuted, nor the reverse maintained by any one who has conferred with us on the subject.

8233. Independently of the expense of the establishments, have you any doubt that the substitution of a well-regulated system of in-door relief, and a more general application of the Workhouse test, which would be consequent on smaller Unions and more Workhouses, would produce, in the long run, an economy to those very districts more than commensurate with the expense of the increased establishments?

That is decidedly our impression.

8234. Is it your opinion that an establishment would cost less than 2,000 *l.* per annum?

We have not inquired into what it would actually cost; it bears the same ratio to the houses that the present staff does to the present houses; but the exact cost formed no part of our inquiry.

8235. In the original construction of those Unions, it was laid down as a principle, that in all cases they should be built in market towns; has not that, practically, without discussing the expediency of the question, led to placing the Workhouses, in many instances, in situations which are not central?

To some extent, no doubt it has. I think the first question with the original Poor Law Commissioners was, to ascertain the best site for a house, which, according to their instructions, was generally the place to which the people of the country, who were likely to become Guardians, most constantly resorted in the progress of their common business; and, having fixed upon the site, they divided the intermediate country as well as they could.

8236. Can you state whether it is the custom of Guardians to resort very much to the small country towns in Ireland in the same way that farmers in this country are accustomed to do?

Not to the same extent.

8237. Do not you think that a facility for the attendance of the Guardians, and more especially a reasonable facility for the attendance of the elected as well as the *ex-officio* Guardians at the Board, is a great check upon abuse?

No doubt it is.

8238. In the case of the Union of Rathkeale, you are aware that by fixing the house in the market town of Rathkeale, there is a distance of between 20 and 30 miles from the extreme boundary of that Union to be travelled by every Guardian from that part of the county, and that in the course of last year two days' attendance in the week was required from the Guardians; should you have any expectation of being able to get that weekly attendance in the winter season?

Not without the most extreme inconvenience to the Guardians, besides great personal suffering; and that formed one of the points to which our attention was especially directed by Sir George Grey's instructions at the commencement of our inquiry.

8239. Will you state whether in relation to supplies of food, and the other supplies which are wanting for the Irish Workhouses, there is a necessary connexion between a market town and the furnishing of those supplies?

That seems to me to be the principal advantage of having the houses in a town. They get more tradesmen to contract, and they get their contracts cheaper. I have heard it stated by the Inspector of a Union near Dublin, that great inconvenience arises from the house being in the town, because the farmers and people attended to the markets in their Board-room, instead of attending to the business of the Board. But I have heard that one of the houses in Kerry is built two or three miles out of the town, in the midst of a bog, and it is excessively inconvenient to the Guardians and to the people, as well as to the house, in procuring supplies.

8240. Taking the cases that may arise in your new Unions, you having already exhausted for the most part all the larger towns, do you not consider that a central position for the new Union Workhouses, both with regard to the facility of applications for relief, the attendance of the Relieving Officer, and above all, the attendance of the Guardians themselves, is a matter of very considerable importance?

One would wish to find some point to which the roads converged. I do not think it indispensable that the site should be in a town, but there should be the necessary conveniences for such a building, such as roads, a good supply of water, a facility in obtaining land, and many other local circumstances that should influence the consideration of each case; but that is not a point into which we have very fully gone. We considered that it would be for the Poor Law Commissioners to inquire into those circumstances, and fix the exact site by local examination, which would be now exceedingly tedious; we only say that there should be a house conveniently situated within the proposed Union.

8241. If the principle adopted in relation to the 130 Unions, and the selection of a market town was pointed out as essential to the management of the Poor Law in Ireland, will you state to the Committee whether you think, with respect to the selection of the new sites for Workhouses, it would be expedient to adhere with the same inflexibility to that rule?

I think every case should be separately considered. I have given two instances, one in which inconvenience arises from the house being in the town, and the other where it arises from the house being out of the town.

8242. What was the inconvenience when the house was out of the town?

The Guardians and people found difficulty in going to it, and there was a difficulty in obtaining supplies.

8243. Is there not a difficulty that suggests itself to your mind, the want of convenience for the horses and servants of the Guardians, who have to attend in a country place out of a town; where would they place their horses and servants during the hours that they were sitting in their Board-room?

No doubt some personal inconvenience might arise from that.

8244. Would not that circumstance, in many instances, interfere to prevent attendance?

To some extent it might, especially in the country and in winter. In the country churches in Ireland it is not unusual to erect sheds close to the churches where the people put up their horses and carriages.

8245. You have stated that there were difficulties found in procuring sites; was not the expense of the erection of the former houses considerably enhanced by the high price that in some instances they paid for the land?

I have no personal knowledge on that point.

8246. You can have no doubt that the price of land for sites, comprehending so large an area as that which is now recommended for Workhouses, would be very much more considerable within the immediate vicinity of the great cities and towns than it would be in rural places?

No doubt it would be very much more expensive; and if it were placed absolutely within a town, it would be impossible to purchase the ground, for by a recent Act of Parliament 25 additional acres are allowed.

 8247. Are

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8247. Are you aware, with respect to sites required for Poor Law purposes, that there are not the same facilities given by law which are given with respect to the acquisition of sites for gaols and other public buildings?

I understand there is no such facility under the Poor Law Acts.

8248. Is not that a very great disadvantage to which the public are subjected in acquiring sites for Workhouses, and does not that tend to raise the price of land?

Yes; I cannot see why sites for houses bought for Poor Law purposes should not be dealt with as in the cases of sites for other public purposes.

8249. Is it proposed to have any land attached to those houses?

I apprehend that the same principle will prevail; it is now thought desirable to attach at least land enough to be used for the instruction of the children; 25 acres.

8250. Do you mean the agricultural instruction of the children as recommended in the last Poor Law Act?

Yes.

8251. In your Report, have you distinguished the application of the young labourers for the purposes of instruction from the employment of the able-bodied paupers in agricultural labour?

That is not a point to which our attention was specially directed; but we could not fail to consider the question, because it was very much mooted at the time that the self-supporting Workhouses were talked of, to which I confess I was wholly indisposed.

8252. Did you apprehend the danger of making the Poor Law system more attractive, if the able-bodied pauper received or was indulged with agricultural work, and freed during that work from the restraint of the Poor-house?

The Poor-houses would become extremely populous, if the people were sure of finding well-paid labour there.

8253. And even without receiving more for their labour than their maintenance, their lodging, comfortable clothing and fuel, have you any doubt that if labour out of doors were superadded to that, the condition of the pauper would be more attractive than if, with all these recited advantages, he was subject to a strict invariable discipline within the walls of the Workhouse?

It would come into the category of that scheme by which labour and relief are confounded.

8254. And which you consider to be very mischievous?

Most mischievous.

8255. Will you tell the Committee in what proportion you consider the Electoral Divisions of the North of Ireland to differ from the Electoral Divisions in the West?

They are, generally speaking, smaller, and in many cases more conterminous with property. I think that those are the chief points of difference; they embrace a great many considerations; but they are really the chief points of difference.

8256. At the time the Electoral Divisions were struck out, were the officers who were charged with the responsibility of making those Divisions in possession of better data and greater facilities in making the Divisions in the North than in the West?

Really I apprehend it resolves itself almost into that. In the North they had the Ordnance Surveys, and therefore were in possession of the townland boundaries; that is to say, in possession of maps on a uniform scale which exhibited the townlands, and also the topographical detail of every part of the district to be divided. They had likewise the Government valuation then recently made by Mr. Griffiths founded upon those maps, while in the South and West they had no uniform maps; nor, indeed, any which contained the townland boundaries; nor had they the valuable guide which the Government townland valuation afforded in the North. They were compelled either to look at the country itself, or to get the best maps they could procure on different scales. The smallest unit, therefore,

therefore, topographically speaking, of which they became cognizant, was the parish.

8257. Did not the landlords generally give every possible assistance by producing their own private maps?

I do not know; I was not employed in it; I only speak of the public maps and documents that were available at that time.

8258. In the part of Ireland where the officers charged were possessed of the best elements upon which to come to a sound conclusion, they adopted boundaries which were smaller than those of Connaught, and which were more conterminous with property?

Yes, generally speaking.

8259. Which of the two principles do you consider to be the best, the principle which was adopted in Ulster, or the principle which, with the absence of the necessary information, was adopted, perhaps accidentally or casually, in the West and South?

I think the principle was the same, because the instructions were so, but the practice differed, from their not possessing the same information in both places.

8260. In which was the result the best?

In the North, as practice and experience have shown.

8261. Could you state the average area, the population and the valuation of the Electoral Divisions of Ulster, as compared with those of Connaught?

I have had them made out as to area.

8262. Can you give the Committee any information with respect to the existing size of the Unions and Electoral Divisions in Ireland?

These are Returns—[*producing the same*]—one showing the reductions which will be made in the existing Unions by our proposals, the other showing the average size of the present Electoral Divisions in each Union in Ireland. The average size in Lurgan, for example, is 3,960 acres; and so in succession for the other Unions, down to Clifden, where they average 47,376. The result of which is, that the average size of the Electoral Divisions, in 88 of the Unions therein mentioned, exceeds 7,000 acres in extent. In Connaught there are 16 Unions, the average size of whose Electoral Divisions exceeds 7,000 acres in extent; in Munster 31, in Ulster there are 14, in Leinster 27.

The Returns are handed in.

(A.)

RETURN showing the old Unions, which will be reduced in Extent by the Establishment of those proposed, and the Approximate Amount of those Reductions.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	PRESENT EXTENT.			REDUCED EXTENT.		
	Area.	Population.	Valuation.	Area.	Population.	Valuation.
			£.			£.
Abbeyleix	113,653	41,230	66,759	97,653	37,818	60,811
Athlone	199,109	72,168	103,078	128,065	46,560	62,970
Athy	162,583	47,912	102,882	114,780	35,202	78,035
Ballina	507,154	120,787	95,774	157,195	51,982	43,182
Ballinasloe	219,448	99,026	151,665	102,087	43,566	74,519
Ballinrobe	190,635	85,031	85,217	117,217	56,517	57,173
Ballymoney	127,057	48,812	73,087	94,852	31,140	56,595
Baltinglass	148,558	40,687	90,888	116,782	36,502	84,170
Bandon	150,942	81,772	136,166	108,134	50,940	96,433
Bantry	137,256	56,165	41,830	82,441	25,277	21,510
Boyle	181,293	71,355	81,409	128,707	52,813	59,590
Cahirciveen	178,348	30,888	24,366	126,696	24,102	19,506
Callan	111,558	38,524	84,103	92,366	30,382	69,934
Carlow	196,402	78,086	179,037	125,050	54,451	127,982
Carrick-on-Shannon	132,516	67,077	61,450	90,260	47,620	46,696

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(A.)—RETURN showing the old Unions, &c.—*continued.*

NAMES OF UNIONS.	PRESENT EXTENT.			REDUCED EXTENT.		
	Area.	Population.	Valuation.	Area.	Population.	Valuation.
			£.			£.
Castlereagh	262,827	92,864	114,350	153,820	55,796	74,438
Cavan	178,723	97,271	127,282	122,140	70,117	91,237
Clogheen	162,351	47,033	62,761	141,560	42,742	59,607
Coleraine	112,176	52,704	76,410	94,783	45,122	68,897
Cork	142,730	156,657	365,623	58,129	123,613	205,860
Donegal	174,999	41,371	31,639	163,156	36,763	28,337
Dungarvan	163,826	68,642	94,591	102,616	43,674	59,997
Dunmanway	91,133	30,527	44,085	89,928	29,905	43,162
Edenderry	164,522	34,679	98,634	142,359	30,377	86,266
Ennis	201,959	77,840	101,222	121,567	49,781	70,263
Enniscorthy	193,024	61,652	126,921	184,061	57,963	121,657
Enniskillen	233,588	81,534	96,109	152,971	61,653	80,372
Ennistymon	165,074	49,935	67,487	69,402	30,400	33,640
Fermoy	205,998	92,353	153,453	159,088	67,924	116,089
Galway	292,760	88,973	100,777	147,540	67,689	79,226
Glenties	294,503	43,571	16,330	210,200	24,679	8,626
Gort	108,975	43,543	53,037	97,544	40,255	49,824
Granard	138,907	55,130	87,209	117,408	45,764	78,339
Kanturk	260,265	85,861	106,114	138,103	43,725	53,617
Kells	115,935	45,282	123,339	99,512	40,300	108,118
Kilkenny	275,069	120,082	241,776	115,788	58,282	126,833
Killarney	249,690	53,345	85,829	136,052	27,840	43,842
Kilmallock	165,131	75,687	177,881	114,219	49,784	125,653
Kilrush	148,814	82,353	59,449	111,933	64,245	44,401
Limerick	171,509	132,067	206,861	97,076	99,691	143,150
Lismore	99,678	38,617	64,583	87,913	34,033	56,799
Listowel	209,261	78,756	97,558	149,402	54,120	69,490
Longford	208,625	87,757	124,497	106,395	48,958	70,879
Loughrea	152,308	71,774	91,007	95,020	46,431	59,954
Macroom	194,981	58,818	93,876	165,102	50,433	80,457
Magherafelt	155,847	80,816	75,339	140,777	73,397	68,982
Manorhamilton	162,471	45,990	47,284	128,080	32,737	36,204
Midleton	145,683	78,428	163,070	110,274	53,511	115,085
Mohill	137,768	68,859	57,778	83,635	45,375	35,425
Mountmellick	220,968	67,874	89,914	175,843	55,316	72,267
Mullingar	251,054	73,272	190,944	170,219	50,120	130,140
Naas	199,335	52,228	135,232	139,616	40,279	106,814
Nenagh	216,884	89,874	119,802	171,594	69,916	90,569
Newcastle	180,937	60,007	109,499	132,181	35,376	67,432
New Ross	203,285	74,923	109,748	152,473	58,055	90,072
Oldcastle	109,802	48,373	79,721	103,066	44,634	74,832
Parsonstown	171,962	76,528	109,286	103,325	46,333	70,336
Rathdrum	223,109	56,709	153,246	141,943	41,674	110,642
Rathkeale	151,612	68,174	138,337	72,253	37,405	75,297
Roscommon	176,775	83,437	85,873	107,428	47,678	50,361
Roscrea	155,374	63,016	102,171	89,360	45,181	71,679
Scariff	108,975	53,563	44,609	87,975	40,887	21,128
Shillelagh	104,154	34,800	64,485	96,464	32,048	58,489
Skibbereen	236,592	104,508	98,255	113,140	58,404	59,539
Sligo	254,995	111,054	142,030	99,570	55,357	69,979
Swineford	208,476	73,529	46,016	167,396	63,689	42,950
Thurles	154,542	71,976	108,931	137,185	66,978	99,053
Tipperary	185,561	79,516	148,326	141,436	62,134	120,115
Tralee	350,722	91,663	113,854	106,697	48,702	61,848
Tuam	191,537	74,974	86,236	144,670	62,600	69,832
Waterford	153,184	84,360	193,771	116,493	69,953	167,043
Westport	344,707	77,952	38,876	194,616	56,007	28,906

(B.)

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RETURN showing the average Size of the ELECTORAL DIVISIONS in each UNION in *Ireland*.

Lurgan	Ulster	3,960		Milford	Ulster	9,171	
Belfast	„	3,979		Tipperary	Munster	9,183	
Lisburn	„	4,277		Nenagh	„	9,228	
Carrickmacross	„	4,329		Boyle	Connaught	9,243	
Dublin, North	Leinster	4,576		Cashel	Munster	9,305	
Rathdown	„	5,081		Fermoy	„	9,355	
Coleraine	Ulster	5,086		Mullingar	Leinster	9,501	
Kinsale	Munster	5,122		Athlone	Connaught	9,740	
Castleblayney	Ulster	5,190		Limerick	Munster	9,770	
Shillelagh	Leinster	5,317		Listowel	„	9,951	
Monaghan	Ulster	5,367		Edenderry	Leinster	9,991	
Dungannon	„	5,390		Skibbereen	Munster	10,054	
Banbridge	„	5,431		Dungannon	Ulster	10,122	
Dundalk	„	5,486		Trim	Leinster	10,288	
Ballymoney	„	5,524		Abbeyleix	„	10,360	
Strabane	„	5,600		Mohill	Connaught	10,401	
Celbridge	Leinster	5,787		Longford	Leinster	10,405	
Newtownards	Ulster	5,863		Cork	Munster	10,437	
Clogher	„	5,955		Tullamore	Leinster	10,496	
Newry	„	5,992		Clogheen	Munster	10,516	
Cookstown	„	6,032		New Ross	Leinster	10,831	
Omagh	„	6,041		Sligo	Connaught	10,983	
Dublin, South	Leinster	6,078		Stranorlar	Ulster	11,012	
Antrim	Ulster	6,118		Enniskillen	„	11,459	
Downpatrick	„	6,128		Mallow	Munster	11,491	
Armagh	„	6,152		Baltinglass	Leinster	11,502	
Magherafelt	„	6,236		Athy	„	11,670	
Waterford	Munster	6,279		Carlow	„	11,765	
Balrothery	Leinster	6,299		Ennis	Munster	11,819	
Londonderry	Ulster	6,335		Mountmellick	Leinster	11,875	
Castlederg	„	6,556		Parsonstown	„	11,946	
Midleton	Munster	6,671		Castlerea	Connaught	12,437	
Bandon	„	6,692		Dunfanaghy	Leinster	12,512	
Clones	Ulster	6,773		Kilkenny	„	12,540	
Ballycastle	„	6,843		Lismore	Munster	12,612	
Lowtherstown	„	6,879		Macroom	„	12,684	
Ballymena	„	7,002		Gort	Connaught	12,894	
Lisnaskea	„	7,042		Gorey	Leinster	12,985	
Bailieborough	„	7,308		Newcastle	Munster	13,220	
Letterkenny	„	7,309		Loughrea	Connaught	13,247	
Ardee	Leinster	7,474		Enniscorthy	Leinster	13,277	
Inishowen	Ulster	7,587		Ennistymon	Munster	13,449	
Kilmallock	Munster	7,637		Ballyshannon	Ulster	13,577	
Cavan	Ulster	7,845		Kilrush	Munster	13,764	
Carrick-on-Suir	Munster	7,886		Dunmanway	„	13,845	
Navan	Leinster	7,887		Ballinasloe	Connaught	14,154	
Newtown Limavaddy	Ulster	7,887		Donegal	Ulster	14,349	
Thurles	Munster	7,964		Manorhamilton	Connaught	15,145	
Oldcastle	Leinster	8,074		Scariff	Munster	15,277	
Carrick-on-Suir	Munster	8,099		Castlebar	Connaught	16,069	
Rathkeale	„	8,111		Tuam	„	16,293	
Kilkeel	Ulster	8,180		Tralee	Munster	16,866	
Drogheda	Leinster	8,237		Kanturk	„	17,126	
Kells	„	8,282		Swineford	Connaught	17,330	
Gortin	Ulster	8,566		Ballinrobe	„	17,540	
Callan	Leinster	8,581		Rathdrum	Leinster	19,216	
Roscrea	Munster	8,610		Killarney	Munster	19,397	
Granard	Leinster	8,842		Bantry	„	19,859	
Cootehill	Ulster	8,852		Glenties	Ulster	20,044	
Clonmel	Munster	9,011		Cahirciveen	Munster	21,224	
Naas	Leinster	9,016		Galway	Connaught	23,297	
Dunshaughlin	„	9,026		Ballina	„	29,832	
Roscommon	Connaught	9,031		Kenmare	Munster	31,116	
Larne	Ulster	9,048		Westport	Connaught	33,018	
Wexford	Leinster	9,059		Clifden	„	47,376	

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8263. Have you received many communications from various parties in Ireland, suggesting a smaller area of taxation?
Yes, very numerous representations on that subject.

8264. From many parts of Ireland?
Yes; and from almost all parts of Ireland from which complaints have come; they have all hinged more or less on that point.

8265. Have you received many from the North, where the Divisions are comparatively small?
Complaints from the North are much less numerous than from the other parts of Ireland.

8266. Have you received complaints from any of the 14 Unions in Ulster?
Yes, some have come from the North.

8267. It having been a matter of entire notoriety in Ireland that this question of diminishing the area of taxation was under the consideration of the Commission of which you are the head, have you received any considerable number of communications, objecting to a reduction of the area of taxation; and what proportion, if any such exist, do the parties objecting to a reduction bear to the persons recommending it?
It would be difficult to state that in distinct proportions, but there have been communications objecting to the reduction of area. If one were to attempt to draw a general line, I should say that they were from people interested in towns, while people interested in the country look to the reduction.

8268. As far as you can judge by the communications which have been made to you, does the opinion appear favourable, or the reverse, to a reduction of the area of taxation?
On the whole, favourable to a reduction of the area.

8269. The objections are very small in proportion to the recommendations?
Yes.

8270. Have those who object put forward any grounds of their objection?
I am not aware that they have stated any tangible objection, different from those that are known to every body, and which are now so constantly talked about. They have said it was for the interests of the landlords; they want to get the people entirely into their own hands. I think their reasons are not generally based upon any very tangible ground.

8271. They never showed that it would interfere with the working of the Poor Law?
A multiplication of Guardians was dwelt upon in the Unions, and we could not but feel that very great reduction would open that source of evil to a great extent, unless the Unions were similarly reduced. We were prepared, however, to recommend, if it should appear necessary, in consequence of a reduction of the size, that the Poor Law Commissioners should have the power to appoint one Guardian to two Electoral Divisions, or more, as they now have power to appoint two Guardians or more to one Electoral Division, when it is very large; it would only be giving them an analogous power, and meet that evil. As far as our arrangements and reductions have yet gone, both Unions and Electoral Divisions being reduced, we have not brought the divisions to so small a size as to render that necessary.

8272. You communicated your scheme to the Unions in Ireland in reference to the Union boundaries; did you also open to the Guardians with whom you were in correspondence the question of the reduction of Electoral Division boundaries?
The queries originally sent out by us related to both subjects, but we have only as yet announced the Union changes, for the reasons I stated before. The Electoral Division changes remain to be announced.

8273. Among the objections, were there any with regard to the facility of raising the rates?
I do not recollect that; I do not say it may not have been so; I do not recollect it.

8274. Was there any, with regard to increasing the inequality of rating?
Yes, it was constantly represented. If you bring the area down to an exceedingly small space, you must render the rates exceedingly unequal; of that there could be no doubt whatever.

8275. And, not that you would find it very difficult to raise sufficient rate in certain of the reduced districts?
Yes, decidedly, that is one of the main objections.

8276. Would not that depend, practically, on the amount you fixed upon as your unit of taxation?
Yes, decidedly, it would; and that is the antagonism on one side.

8277. What was the smallest unit of taxation which has been suggested?
A townland in the country; it was looked upon as a country question by the people who advocate the townland, because that is wholly inapplicable within cities. If a townland were to be adopted in the country, one would be at a loss to follow it into the town; you must either make an artificial boundary, like the ward boundaries in boroughs, or come to individual properties; you must make each house support its own poor, in fact.

8278. With reference to the townland boundary, do you consider that it could not have been practically adopted, and if not, what are the practical objections that you can state to it?
It would be possible to adopt any division, however large or small; but the townlands are so unequal in their size, and in all other circumstances, in their value, in population, in the amount of labour that they naturally give, and in all the circumstances that enter into the consideration of Poor Law questions, and they differ so much from each other, that there would be no analogy between them.

8279. Can you give examples of great discrepancies in size between Irish townlands?
There are some 5,000 or 6,000 acres, and there are some that are only two or three acres.

8280. Therefore, you rejected that proposition, as being entirely out of the question?
Yes, and wholly inexpedient.

8281. What was the next suggestion that was made?
The next most abundant suggestion was, that the boundaries of property should be areas of rating.

8282. What was the judgment you formed with respect to the boundaries of property as an invariable and inflexible rule for the area of taxation?
The boundaries of property varied exceedingly in size and circumstances; they appeared, in fact, to be liable to all the objections stated to the townlands. Besides this, there were other objections that presented themselves; that it would destroy all community of feeling between the different proprietors in the country; it would make two classes; you would have a great class of proprietors, and a great class of paupers, and you would divide the country, where you want to create a community of feeling among its different inhabitants; and you would also restrict the field of labour and employment, the labour market, not only unjustly, but irregularly. There would be no analogy between the degrees of restriction you would place upon it, and by so much introduce again the mischievous principle that makes labour and relief equivalent, which my feeling is strongly against.

8283. Are there not certain cases in Ireland, in which, from their local position, and the size of the estates, those property boundaries have been adopted, and become applicable to those particular cases, though they might not be invariably applicable in all other cases?
Decidedly; and the line we endeavoured to draw between all those conflicting opinions was, admitting more or less truth to attach to every one of them, and estimating the degree of weight due to each, to take such a course as should promise the greatest amount of general benefit; and it appeared possible to meet the views of those who wanted to reduce the area, by very considerably reducing

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the present areas, and still without reducing them so much as to incur the evils of a too restricted space. At the same time, to adopt as external boundaries the boundaries of property, which the class who advocated that view pressed so strongly, but not to make property the only rule, or each property an area of rating, so as still to secure a community of feeling throughout the country. We sought to divide the country, if one may so speak, into spaces that should contain as many people as the natural circumstances of the district would require, and, at the same time, be conterminous with property. Instead of grouping arbitrarily together townlands and parishes, or adhering to the ancient boundaries of baronies and countries, which, in the abstract view, would be desirable if it were possible, to put together such a number of properties as would make a fair average rate of area, population and value.

8284. You have stated that you consider that certain social inconveniences might result if a property boundary were adopted as a principle; you have also been asked whether a property boundary, in certain instances which have been named to you, upon particular estates, is not adopted, from the peculiarity of the circumstances; will you state whether the social inconveniences that you anticipate as the consequence of adopting a property boundary have occurred where circumstances have admitted its adoption?

I apprehend that the cases referred to are cases of very large properties, where there has happened to be, probably, a very mixed industry, and sufficient space to prevent the inconveniences that we apprehend from that principle being followed; in that case it is perfectly safe.

8285. Then should you not limit your objection to a property boundary to those cases wherein, if it were adopted, you would have areas of taxation produced, that did not contain within themselves an adequate or sufficiently varied social organization?

Quite so, and where the properties were small.

8286. Have you ever contemplated, in your reduction of the Electoral Divisions, the reducing any Electoral Division, however large, which is now confined to one property?

I do not know that that case has ever come before us. I should not be prepared to say, if we found a very large Electoral Division, that we might not find it desirable to reduce it, although it was one property; in that case we should make known our wish to the proprietor, and take his opinion and his feelings about it; one would be exceedingly reluctant to act contrary to them.

8287. Supposing the proprietor was to object to a subdivision, would it be expedient still to persevere in it?

The fact of his objecting would not alone be sufficient, but one should discuss it, and endeavour, if it were desirable and expedient, to satisfy him of the necessity for dividing it.

8288. Do the Committee understand that you would advocate bringing into the same Electoral Division two adjoining estates, of which one might be a very pauperized estate, and the other estate having a moderate amount of pauperism?

Not in consequence of their being so circumstanced.

8289. Would the effect of that be, if such a union were to take place in an Electoral Division, to depreciate one property, and to enhance the value of the other?

Yes, for the present it would, so far as relief went.

8290. Would it not, so far as raising the rates was concerned, greatly damage one estate, and greatly advantage the other?

At the first outset it would; I do not think it follows that it always should; it may be, on that estate on which very few paupers are, that a demand may suddenly rise, by the progress of improvement, the discovery of minerals, or other circumstances, opening a field for new labour, and the proprietor would then be too glad to have the labour near to him.

8291. The other causes remaining unchanged, the effect would be as has been supposed by the question?

Yes, for the present.

8292. With

8292. With your knowledge of the value of land in Ireland, previous to the late distress, was it not found that an estate having a small amount of population upon it, would sell for many more years' purchase in the market than the one having a larger amount of population on it?

Yes, no doubt it would.

8293. Are the Committee to conclude from your evidence, that whilst it would not be safe or practicable to adopt the property division in all cases, it is expedient and just to take it into account as amongst the elements upon which you would determine the divisions?

Decidedly, a most important element.

8294. And that element, as you believe, has been more regarded in Ulster, where the Poor Law has worked the best, than in Connaught, where it has worked the worst?

On the whole, I think it has.

8295. Having excluded the townland boundary as a principle, and property boundary as the invariable rule, what would be the element that you would take into account in determining the boundaries of the new Electoral Divisions?

The area, the population, and the value are the three great elements; subdividing the area into its cultivated and uncultivated proportions, because we are wrong in calling an Electoral Division very large, if the larger proportion of it is waste, and dividing the population into its classes, as far as we are able to judge of them by the materials that the Census gives, as to the residences of the people, and the class of their houses, we might find in one townland a great many people living in first and second class houses, and in another the same number of people all living in third and fourth class houses. Then we know something of the state of that district, as to its poverty or wealth, whether it is rate-paying or rate-receiving. With that and similar information, we should put together as large a space as was necessary to carry out the view of suiting the country to its inhabitants, and of suiting the number of the people to the country.

8296. In the statement that you have now made, you have altogether omitted the question of the property?

I was about to say I would accomplish that, not by grouping together townlands or parishes, or arbitrary districts, but by grouping together properties that would make tolerable boundaries of Electoral Divisions; and to that end I have explained how we collected the names of the proprietors of all the townlands, and how we entered them on townland maps, and compiled them into maps of a more convenient size. By these the Committee will see how the properties are thrown together into groups.

[Some Maps were exhibited to the Committee, and explained.]

8297. Do you generally find each property rather of a uniform character as to its pauperism or its affluent condition?

No, they differ considerably.

8298. Do you generally find that each property has a distinct character?

No; portions of the property may have; properties differ more or less, but the townlands, on the whole, differ more *inter se* than whole properties do when they are extensive.

8299. One property may of course be better managed than another, but is property upon the whole of a uniform character?

Of the management, that is of the personal qualities, as I may term it, of the proprietor, we know nothing.

8300. It appears in an enumeration of the properties in the map before the Committee, that there are already numbered, some being still left for further information, 575 different properties; does not that in itself, even assuming the identity of property in some of those numbers, show a number of units that would be perfectly unmanageable in respect of the Poor Law valuation and taxes?

Yes; indeed, it is not necessary to go farther than that.

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8301. You have been asked with respect to the identity of character in particular properties, even with the same proprietor having no agent, but with the same anxiety to manage his property upon an identical principle; does not the nature of the Irish tenure, the long leases that subsist in many instances, totally preclude the possibility of applying that principle invariably by the head landlord?

No doubt the manner in which the land is held under him must greatly influence a landlord's proceedings, and frequently defeat his intentions.

8302. Do the Committee clearly understand that your wish would be to arrive at as fair an adjustment as you could of the area of population and value, keeping to the boundaries of property where you could consistently with a combination of those conditions?

Just so.

8303. Supposing you found an Electoral Division at present of such a size that you divide it into two, and that you found one-half of it principally composed of mines, and the other half agricultural, would you make any distinction upon that particular score?

Not on that score alone.

8304. Would you take that as an element into your consideration?

Yes, as it influenced the people. There is a case in the South of Ireland, in which certain mines are on one side of the Electoral Division boundary, and the people who work them live on the other; so that the valuation of one division is swelled by the existence of those mines, while the other Electoral Division has to pay for keeping the people; that I take to be an unjust demarcation.

8305. Is that in the county of Kerry?

Either in the county of Kerry or Cork.

8306. Should you not take that circumstance into consideration, as a ground for making a re-distribution of the Electoral Divisions there?

Yes, in that case.

8307. In that case, do the miners live on the property of the individual who has the mines?

I believe they do.

8308. Even supposing that the mines were situated on one Electoral Division, and the miners were situated on another, and that the valuation of the first townland was enhanced by reason of the mines, and the destitution of the other townland increased by reason of the presence of the labourers, still would not the mining Electoral Division furnish the wages to the non-mining Electoral Division?

It would furnish the wages, but not support the distress. In all such communities there would be a great probable amount of distress, in consequence of the vicissitudes that always attend that class of labour.

8309. Practically speaking, in the case that has been put, whatever amount of labour was supplied by the one district, would be, *pro tanto*, a relief to the district in which the labourers lived?

No doubt.

[A Map of the County of Clare was now exhibited, divided into the several Properties, showing the old division into Unions and Electoral Divisions, together with that proposed by the Boundary Commissioners.]

8310. What is the present number of Unions that you recommend?

Eight; there were formerly five; but some of them extend into the adjoining counties in both cases.

8311. Will you have the goodness to compare the existing number and average area of Electoral Divisions in the county of Clare, of which you have given a map, with the proposed Electoral Divisions, and the area of those Electoral Divisions, under your improved scheme?

The number of Electoral Divisions formerly was 58, and as proposed 117; the

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the average area of cultivation and population of the old Electoral Divisions was as follows: the old Electoral Divisions had an area of 13,280 acres, and a population of 4,715, and a valuation of 4,500 *l.*; the new ones have an area of 6,586 acres, a population of 2,375, and a valuation of 2,177 *l.* At the same time that I make this average, I take also the average of Ballina, which is in this printed Report, and it happens to give a very similar result; though every Union and every Electoral Division was weighed upon its own ground without previously fixing any average, which it was wished to attain. I give that, as affording an inference, that adopting the same general principle, will in the long run produce nearly similar average results. The results in Ballina are these: the old Electoral Divisions averaged 29,832 acres, the population 7,105, and the valuation 5,715 *l.* The new ones average an area of 11,294 acres, the population 2,853, and the value 2,128 *l.*; the difference of size may still, perhaps, be observable, by your Lordships. The new Electoral Divisions of Ballina are 11,000 and odd acres, and in the Electoral Divisions of Clare they are 6,000 and odd. But I have mentioned before the necessity for considering the amount of the cultivated and uncultivated land, and the result is, that *quoad* cultivation, though the Ballina Divisions are nearly twice the size of those in Clare, the average boundary of cultivation in Ballina is but 903, while the average boundary of cultivation in Clare is 1,172; so that though the Clare Electoral Divisions average but half the size of the Ballina Electoral Divisions, they actually contain more cultivated land.

8312. It appears that the alteration you have made has totally altered the proportion as to valuation and population; that point I cannot clearly understand?

I think your Lordship will find that it gives about the same sum per head to each person in the two; but the Unions are not strictly conterminous, and some of them extend into the adjoining counties.

8313. In taking the boundaries of property, where you are able, as the boundaries of the new Electoral Divisions, do you consider that you are making a concession to the present circumstances of Ireland, or thereby laying down a principle which would be beneficial in future legislation?

I think, as a general abstract principle, that the more permanent boundaries should be preferred to the boundaries of property which are fluctuating, *i. e.* that the boundaries of counties, baronies, and perhaps of parishes, should be, if it were otherwise practicable, the boundaries to be adopted for Poor Law purposes. There are many arguments in favour of adopting the boundaries of counties and baronies; among others, that the present local rates are entirely levied by those divisions; the rates for the ordinary county works and other purposes, for the support of many charities, such as lunatic asylums and dispensaries. But we are now for the first time introducing into Ireland a new taxation, and it is one which falls upon properties. Is it not, therefore, too much to make the boundaries of properties the boundaries for this particular purpose, as the boundaries of property now stand? This, I think, is to be viewed in the light of a concession to the difficulty of working the new law, and should not, I think, be considered sufficient to set aside the more general principle of adhering to permanent boundaries. Hereafter those boundaries of property may become permanent as Poor Law boundaries.

8314. Do you think that there is no risk afterwards of the present boundaries being lost, after great change of property has taken place, when there are no longer the same guides to them, and that there may arise great disputes as to which Electoral Divisions paupers living near those boundaries belong to?

If they live near to the boundaries, difficulties may occur; but they would be much less in Ireland than in this country, or almost in any country that I know of, in consequence of the great minuteness of the Ordnance Survey, which shows the townland boundaries and every house in the country.

8315. You do not propose to depart from the townland boundary?

No, that must be adhered to by the Poor Law Act.

8316. Is not the townland boundary one of the most ancient, and one of the best regulated boundaries in Ireland, and the one which stands specially and officially recorded on the Ordnance Survey?

 Yes;

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Yes; also in official valuations, and it is the boundary upon which they levy the other local taxes. Though we abandon the boundaries of counties and baronies, we adhere to the townland, which is still the invariable rule.

8317. Do not you apprehend that formerly the boundaries of English parishes were very much coincident with property?

I have always so understood.

8318. Is there not another reason for adhering to the townland boundaries, namely, the expectation that a large quantity of land must, within a few years, change hands by sale?

Yes.

8319. Is it not your opinion that a great deal of property must change hands through the operation of sales, and will not that also tend by the subdivision of properties to interfere with the present boundaries, if they are confined to the properties as they stand now in the hands of certain individuals?

Not if the boundaries remain townland boundaries, because property is usually sold by townlands.

8320. Will you state whether, amongst the elements that you have calculated upon as being those which you ought to bear in view, you would contemplate the annexation of a well-managed property to an ill-managed property, for the mere purpose of equalizing the taxation, and making each contribute in an altered proportion?

Not for the mere purpose of doing so; it is a thing one should avoid doing when it is not indispensably necessary.

8321. Suppose such a thing to be done in any case; what do you think would be the consequence of that, with respect to the improvement of land, and the due management of estates?

That is a very large question to answer, the effects would be so various. I scarcely know how to answer as to what would be the general effects of so joining together a good and a bad property.

8322. Let me suppose a case: townland A. and townland B.; townland A. being well-managed, being improved and not over-peopled, and townland B. being over-rented, ill-managed, and charged with a disproportionate population; what would be the effect of uniting those in one unit of taxation, responsible for their poor; which would pay the greatest amount of rate?

They would pay in proportion to their value; and there is little doubt that the well-conditioned townland would suffer by its alliance with the other.

8323. Which of the two would receive the greatest amount of relief?

The worst-conditioned.

8324. Suppose the improvement of the well-conditioned estate to augment by the application of capital, and the introduction of good husbandry, the Poor Law system admitting of re-valuations, would not the well-managed estate contribute in an increased proportion?

In an increased and increasing proportion, unless the valuations were made only at certain periods, and not so constantly as they are now, so as to give the improver the benefit of his improvements for a certain number of years.

8325. Supposing—by rack-rents, by the want of introduction of capital, and by the multiplied subdivisions of land—townland B. augments in destitution and wretchedness; would not the claim of townland B. for relief augment in the same proportion as the taxes levied in townland A. augmented in amount?

No doubt it would. The case can scarcely arise, because we are not dealing with places so small as the question contemplates. Accordingly that is an evil of the greatest amount that we have to dread, viz., dealing with such exceedingly small spaces, and when that begins to be felt, you find that you have got low enough down.

8326. Supposing, in place of two townlands, there are two estates connected for the purposes I have alluded to, namely, for the purpose of equalizing the taxation, a well-managed estate, consisting of very many townlands, put in the same Electoral Division with another estate, consisting of very many ill-managed townlands,

townlands, would not the same consequences which have been already referred to as between townland and townland follow as between estate and estate?

I apprehend they would, to some extent; but we are not cognizant of the management of property; that is what I designate the personal quality of the proprietor; we only know the condition in which it is; we do not know how the proprietor is dealing with it; we find a certain greater amount of valuation in one district than in another.

8327. Assuming, further, that a larger amount of valuation per head would represent, which it would not invariably do, a greater amount of well-being in one estate; for instance, that the valuation represented 3*l.* per head, and in the other 6*l.* per head, as in Dunshaughlin, or in another 7*s.* per head, as in Glenties; would not the combination of two of those districts, assuming them to be the estates of different proprietors, lead to the consequences that have been referred to?

To a great extent it would. It is a bad thing to have bad neighbours.

8328. Would not the consequence be, the discouragement of improvement?

To a great extent it must be.

8329. Would it not also lead to a greater expectation of relief, and to a greater pressure upon the Poor Law, if that relief was coming not from your own purse, but from the purse of another?

I dare say it would.

8330. Do you think it possible to arrive at such a state of isolation as to obviate these consequences?

No; they are indispensable evils, that we must endeavour to make as light as possible.

8331. Are not those evils which would make it unjust and impracticable on the part of the Commissioners to recommend the conjunction of a property which is well managed, solely and exclusively for the purpose of relieving and furnishing funds for the destitution of an ill-managed property?

One should never wish to join them for that express purpose, without other considerations.

8332. In your original statement, you said that it was absolutely necessary that you should lay out different Electoral Divisions, with a view to having various classes of population in each?

I said that such circumstances were desirable, but we cannot hope always to obtain them.

8333. If the principle laid down in the questions recently asked you were adopted, would not the whole of your original principle be departed from?

You cannot lay down any inflexible principle. You will not find the precise conditions, such as are contemplated in the questions, nor such as are desired in the answers. I cannot find, in any given district, exactly what I should wish, a certain amount of agricultural industry, a certain amount of manufacturing industry, and a certain amount of mining or other industry; I should like to have that, but I cannot.

8334. Still, if you were to adopt the principle of trying to avoid putting good with bad estates in the same Electoral Division, would not the result be, that there would be one class of exceedingly flourishing Electoral Divisions, and another in a state in which it would be utterly impossible for them to provide for their own poor?

No doubt; and that is, again, one of those extreme cases in which the smallness of a division becomes an evil.

8335. Would not that principle be, dividing the different classes of the community, rather than, according to your original principle, trying to combine and mix together in each Electoral Division portions of each class?

The truth is, that if any one of these principles was carried to an extreme, it would be contradictory to the other, and therefore it is that I have endeavoured to point out the difficulty of fixing any inflexible principle upon which these divisions can be made. It is an easy, rational and natural question to ask, on what principle do you make those divisions? and one ought at first sight to be able to

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answer it as distinctly as one would a mathematical problem; but when all the elements differ so much, *inter se*, as well as in their combination, you cannot fix any more intelligible principle, I think, than that the Divisions should be as small as possible, consistently with the general good; making them small as a concession to the individual proprietors, but still as large as is necessary for the general good and for the public interest; and it is those two considerations, unless you take great care, that will be in antagonism. Now, the interest of no class of the community ought to be in direct antagonism to that of any other or of all others. You must consider that your principle is to do as much general good as possible. I do not think that it is practicable to make a more definite enunciation of the principle. Then it is natural to ask what minimum or maximum will you fix for these Electoral Divisions? I am equally unable to fix that, from the great number of the different elements that are to be taken into consideration, and the different ways in which they differ. I can only arrive at a maximum or minimum by assuming hypothetically that the circumstances should be reduced to an average; then no doubt you can fix a maximum and minimum; and, as I have said before, if I take the acreage, the population, the fertility, the abundance of labour, and every other circumstance in the country, on the average, it is very possible to fix a maximum or minimum; but if all circumstances were at an average, there would be no need of either maximum or minimum. It is only because these circumstances differ from the average that you demand maximum or minimum, and for precisely the same reasons you cannot fix either the one or the other, but come, after all, to the necessity of considering separately every individual case as it arises, and viewing it in all its elements and relations.

8336. Are the Committee to understand that the plan you have offered of the county of Clare, and also that of the Union of Ballina, are fair expositions of the plan upon which the Boundary Commissioners are at present dividing the Electoral Divisions of Ireland?

For districts of that nature, I think they are. I have endeavoured to explain, that taking any group of Electoral Divisions would not present a fair average, perhaps, even of a whole county. So, I think, that even these two districts are insufficient to give an exact average of what it would be necessary to do for all Ireland; perhaps, on the whole, they may be taken as approaching to a fair average.

8337. It appears that you contemplate in the Ballina Union having the Electoral Divisions to exceed 11,000 statute acres, and a valuation of 2,128*l.* In the county of Clare, you propose to have the Electoral Divisions, containing 6,500 acres, with a valuation of 2,177*l.*?

Yes; taking the cultivated and uncultivated land together.

8338. If, as you appear to admit, it is desirable that the Electoral Divisions should, as far as possible, represent property, do you not think that those Electoral Divisions would still admit of considerable reduction?

I am not prepared to say that some may not be reduced, or even that some may not be increased, when we have made them known in the country, and received the representations on the subject of the parties interested. It is our intention to proceed, in regard to the Electoral Divisions, on the same principle we adopted in regard to the Unions; that is, we made known the new Unions we proposed to recommend, by circulars addressed to the present Boards of Guardians; and as soon as the views of the Government on the subject are announced to us, our wishes to print lists of the Electoral Divisions which each Union is proposed to contain, stating the townlands which are to constitute each Electoral Division, then to distribute those lists in the country, and lodge a map in the Union-house, or other convenient place, to which everybody may have access, and be enabled to state to us what their objections are, and whether they would wish to do otherwise than what we propose. Then we should take those objections into consideration, and attend to them, if it seemed desirable, or overrule them, if it should seem otherwise. I do not say that in Ballina it may not be necessary to reduce some, and perhaps increase some; that sort of adjustment is to be arrived at after a full consultation with all the parties concerned. On the whole, however, I think the Electoral Divisions of Ballina exceedingly fair. Some are very large; but that arises from the extent of waste land. Some of the Electoral Divisions contain many thousand acres, in which there

there are but a few hundred acres of cultivated land, and that cultivated land is distributed in patches throughout the waste land; all those patches are peopled, or they would not be there. There is a cottage, perhaps, in every one of them, and they constitute that particular class of the community the most difficult to deal with. The cultivated land is most important to take into consideration in the question of extent. One cannot make a division as large as one could wish in regard to cultivated land, without making it inconveniently large, from the abundance of waste; and so one cannot make it as small as one would wish, without doing it at the cost of a diminution of cultivated land.

8339. Still, in the Ballina Union, you propose that those Electoral Divisions should have a valuation as high as 2,128*l.*?

We have arrived at the figures which give that average, but it is an average of the whole of that part of the county. It embraces the eastern and better cultivated district. Take the case of Belmullet-on-the-West; there were two Electoral Divisions in that district, which we propose should constitute the Union of Belmullet, and we have divided them into 14; while on the Eastern side of the county, we have not made a great many more divisions than we found.

8340. By the Return that you have laid before the Committee, it appears that out of the 130 Unions in Ireland, there are, at the present time, as many as 90 Unions in which the Electoral Divisions do not reach 10,000 acres?

There are 88 in which they exceed 7,000.

8341. And upwards of 30, and not coming up to 6,500?

Very possibly.

8342. Therefore the Committee are to understand that in those 30 cases the Boundary Commissioners do not contemplate any or much reduction at all?

I should think that in those cases there would not be much. On the whole, the result of this Return is, I think, that there would be from 90 to 100 Unions that it might be necessary to look into; but averages are sometimes fallacious.

8343. Has it ever occurred to you, supposing a law to be passed limiting the amount of taxation in any district to a certain sum, that it might be desirable to apportion the towns in a certain proportion to the Electoral Divisions in themselves?

The question of maximum and minimum rating is a question which I have not considered sufficiently to give my opinion any weight upon the subject. My impression is, that an average maximum rate for the whole country is a question of great difficulty. The fixing a general maximum rate involves something like the difficulties I find in fixing a general maximum area; the circumstances so terribly differ. I apprehend that considerable difficulty may be found as to the question of whether towns should be made separate electorates in that respect; but I do not think, on the whole, that it would alter the town question materially.

8344. Do not you conceive that complaints have been made honestly and justly on the part of the country portion of a division, of the great pressure of taxation, in consequence of the towns which are upon them?

There is no question on which there appears greater contradiction, and, as far as I see, there is great uncertainty in the relative pressure upon the rural and town districts. I never doubted that it was highly probable, and such was the general tenor of the representations made to us, that the towns would be unduly pressed, that the people out of employment, or out of houses, would fall into the towns, and would come entirely to be supported by them. Accordingly we wish, and with respect to Killalla, it is expressed in our printed Report, to give a greater average valuation to the towns; but since I came to London, I have heard a Return quoted, which shows the towns to be less heavily rated than the country districts. That is a conclusion for which I was not at all prepared. I think that there must be some lurking fallacy in it. It may be that there is a greater amount of mixed employment in the towns, and greater wealth does, no doubt, absorb population rapidly into employment, or relieve it by private benevolence, possibly, to such a degree as not to increase the rates; but if it be so in the town divisions generally, it is very contrary to all the representations that we have received, and to the prevailing opinion in Ireland. There can be no doubt of the pressure upon the rates

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in Liverpool, Glasgow and other English towns, caused by the influx of poor Irish, and such towns would appear to differ only in degree, not in kind, from the smaller Irish towns. Nor does private benevolence differ, as to pressure, from relief by rates. It is only raised in another form. It was in pursuance of this subject of pressure upon towns, that we procured a Return which I have here, (C.), showing the operation of what is called the 30 month Clause, as it was stated to us by many parties, that the paupers charged on the Union at large, were greatly increased by its operation; and there can be no doubt such would be its tendency under a lax administration. If such were generally the case, it would account for the comparatively light taxation of the town divisions, as the unsettled paupers would be found upon the Union at large, instead of upon those divisions. But except in a few cases, this Return does not show such a result. The immense emigration which has taken place would in some degree tend, no doubt, to account for the great pressure on the large towns above named, and proportionately relieve the smaller.

(C.)

RETURN, showing the Proportion per Centum of PAUPERS charged on the UNIONS at large during the Six Monthly Periods terminating at the Dates named, the Remainder being charged on the several Electoral Divisions.

NAME OF UNION.	September 1846.	March 1847.	September 1847.	March 1848.
Abbeyleix	14·0	10·8	12·2	11·7
Antrim	3·4	4·0	4·9	6·6
Ardee	8·8	8·3	7·8	19·0
Armagh	10·5	10·6	11·6	16·9
Athlone	4·9	4·4	6·8	6·9
Athy	12·7	9·7	10·4	17·9
Bailieborough	1·7	5·2	8·8	7·5
Ballina	13·6	5·9	6·1	3·4
Ballinasloe	16·2	13·6	14·8	9·6
Ballinrobe	5·4	3·4	2·4	No Return.
Ballycastle	9·2	3·4	4·9	9·8
Ballymena	6·2	4·7	4·4	8·6
Ballymoney	15·7	15·0	13·6	16·8
Ballyshannon	9·1	4·3	3·4	4·0
Balrothery	16·4	14·2	12·1	20·3
Baltinglass	12·1	10·5	12·0	18·0
Banbridge	4·4	4·2	3·2	9·6
Bandon	20·6	16·5	14·2	12·6
Bantry	30·9	23·8	15·2	7·6
Belfast	14·1	15·1	28·5	23·2
Boyle	4·0	5·1	3·5	2·6
Cahirciveen	Workhouse not open	8·6	4·1	3·4
Callan	22·6	17·9	15·6	9·3
Carlow	6·4	3·9	3·5	7·7
Carrickmacross	14·1	11·7	9·0	9·5
Carrick-on-Shannon.				
Carrick-on-Suir	16·6	16·2	23·7	19·8
Cashel	11·4	7·1	7·3	4·4
Castlebar	9·5	10·7	9·8	4·9
Castleblaney	6·1	6·9	11·5	15·2
Castlederg	12·6	8·3	12·8	19·7
Castlerea.				
Cavan	5·4	2·8	3·1	3·5
Celbridge	11·6	16·7	20·6	17·6
Clifden	Workhouse not open	7·9	12·5	5·8
Clogheen	4·8	5·2	4·1	3·2
Clogher	13·2	10·9	13·1	17·7
Clones	6·5	8·7	8·7	9·4
Clonmel	21·0	17·7	20·2	19·5
Coleraine	9·9	9·5	14·0	19·2
Cookstown	12·1	9·5	10·5	14·3
Cootehill	3·7	2·3	3·2	2·7
Cork	29·8	35·7	29·8	27·3

NAME OF UNION.	September 1846.	March 1847.	September 1847.	March 1848.
Donegal	7·0	4·1	3·9	2·4
Downpatrick	12·7	13·3	13·9	15·4
Drogheda	20·4	19·5	30·9	31·9
Dublin, North	14·1	17·9	26·2	26·0
Dublin, South	10·7	11·4	12·5	14·2
Dundalk	12·9	11·7	11·0	13·5
Dunfanaghy	36·0	28·9	15·8	17·9
Dungannon	13·0	10·6	12·6	16·0
Dungarvan	17·4	13·1	11·9	10·9
Dunmanway.*				
Dunshaughlin.				
Edenderry	4·8	6·0	5·9	7·3
Ennis	10·5	10·3	13·8	12·9
Enniscorthy	18·5	20·7	21·2	17·6
Enniskillen	9·8	6·7	3·3	2·6
Ennistymon	81·3	86·4	53·0	70·4
Fermoy	15·3	14·2	14·4	18·1
Galway	10·9	6·3	5·7	3·0
Glenties	3·5	1·7	1·8	3·4
Gorey	32·9	31·9	41·1	43·6
Gort	16·7	17·1	16·1	10·0
Gortin	5·7	18·1	17·3	11·0
Granard	21·6	21·3	23·8	23·5
Inishowen	7·0	5·2	6·7	10·0
Kanturk	12·1	5·6	5·5	3·2
Kells	7·5	3·8	4·6	8·0
Kenmare	7·4	15·7	14·4	8·6
Kilkeel	24·9	24·2	27·0	35·1
Kilkenny	10·1	7·0	10·4	18·8
Killarney.				
Kilmallock	10·3	7·8	10·7	9·5
Kilrush	6·4	5·2	5·4	4·2
Kinsale	21·8	16·3	15·2	14·9
Larne	2·5	1·5	3·5	6·1
Letterkenny	13·8	9·5	10·5	12·5
Limerick	34·1	27·2	28·1	16·2
Lisburn	4·4	5·4	7·4	9·5
Lismore	11·1	6·1	10·8	12·5
Lisnaskea	4·2	3·6	3·3	9·4
Listowel	13·2	8·8	10·7	7·6
Londonderry	16·6	19·2	26·2	35·7

* All relief given charged on the Union at large.

RETURN showing the Proportion per Centum of Paupers charged on the Unions at large—*continued.*

NAME OF UNION.	September 1846.	March 1847.	September 1847.	March 1848.
Longford - -	8·0	8·1	14·1	13·0
Loughrea - -	9·0	6·8	10·3	6·8
Lowtherstown -	11·3	6·0	8·3	13·8
Lurgan - - -	7·1	8·5	9·0	17·0
Macroom - -	13·7	7·6	9·3	13·4
Magherafelt - -	22·4	20·4	16·7	16·9
Mallow - - -	11·1	7·8	5·9	16·9
Manor Hamilton -	11·2	14·7	16·0	8·9
Midleton - -	13·3	10·4	13·6	15·3
Milford - - -	36·1	7·5	8·4	10·7
Mohill - - -	1·9	1·0	1·2	2·5
Monaghan - -	15·0	12·5	15·1	23·3
Mountmelick - -	5·7	4·0	5·3	6·6
Mullingar - -	6·7	7·1	9·5	8·2
Naas - - - -	22·0	18·0	17·1	15·2
Navan - - -	8·9	7·2	8·8	7·2
Nenagh - - -	10·3	8·2	8·8	8·5
Newcastle - -	15·0	22·2	22·9	17·5
New Ross - -	9·0	7·7	10·1	12·6
Newry - - -	15·9	13·2	12·7	12·2
Newtownards - -	19·8	18·2	20·0	26·7
Newtown Limavady	12·2	14·2	12·8	16·0
Oldcastle - -	4·4	3·2	6·6	9·1
Omagh - - -	29·8	17·5	22·8	27.3
Parsonstown - -	7·2	7·1	6·3	6·7
Rathdown - -	15·2	13·4	14·3	20·7
Rathdrum - -	5·3	3·4	4·8	8·0
Rathkeale - -	25·6	16·5	20·2	21·8
Roscommon - -	7·5	3·7	3·7	7·8
Roscrea - -	14·0	12·3	12·4	9·7
Scariff - - -	51·5	54·9	43·1	22·3
Shillelagh - -	10·9	15·9	12·9	10·4
Skibbereen - -	20·3	26·0	50·6	4·2
Sligo - - -	15·8	11·1	10·8	8·6
Strabane - -	21·2	15·8	18·3	26·3
Stranorlar - -	13·8	12·5	11·9	14·5
Swineford - -	7·2	2·1	3·7	3·9
Thurles - - -	6·4	6·5	7·7	6·1
Tipperary - -	23·8	22·5	21·2	16·3
Tralee - - -	14·0	8·0	8·3	6·8
Trim - - -	9·9	8·6	10·7	12·9
Tuam - - -	0·3	1·0	1·4	1·8
Tullamore - -	10·2	9·8	13·5	13·8
Waterford - -	17·6	15·5	21·6	13·9
Westport - -	1·0	1·4	0·8	1·8
Wexford - -	19·0	20 5	25·9	29·3
Mean Average -	15·1	12·9	14·2	13·6

8345. Although you decline to express any opinion with respect to the general policy of a maximum rate, can you inform the Committee whether a fixed poundage maximum rate, resting upon the present Poor Law valuation throughout all Ireland, would be an even poundage and an equal tax?

I do not know much about the Poor Law valuation; it is said to be very unequal.

8346. Do you think that the result of this scheme, of reducing the areas of taxation, would have the effect of increasing the inducement of landlords to get rid of their surplus population?

Not to the extent to which reduction has been carried here—[*pointing to the Map*];—we are anxious not to reduce them to such an extent.

8347. Taking the official returns which have been made, is there any district in which it appears that the system of clearance and evictions have been carried further than in the Union of Kilrush?

I am not prepared to speak on that subject.

8348. Will you explain why you think that a reduction to the extent proposed by the Boundary Commissioners will not have this effect, but that a reduction somewhat to a further extent would produce that effect?

There is a sufficient amount of labour in the district, generally speaking, though, in some cases, the population is much more extensive than the country probably at present requires. On the whole, I do not think that the districts are sufficiently small to lead to evictions on the grounds which have been assigned to them.

8349. It is rather with a view to the local circumstances which have come under your notice, in considering these questions, that you express that opinion, is it not?

Yes.

8350. Do you think the tendency to evictions, or what is called the clearing of estates, augments in proportion as the labour on those estates is burdensome, and not profitable?

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Decidedly. The questions that bear on evictions are exceedingly difficult to answer. I doubt a great deal the correctness of the popular notions about those evictions; but, at the same time, it is a very mixed matter, and one that really is difficult to give a general answer to; one can deal with individual cases by inquiring into them, but such have not been the subject of our inquiry.

8351. Do you not think that there would be more tendency to evict tenants, and to clear an estate, if the population upon that estate was burdensome, than if it was profitable?

I understand eviction to mean, not a landlord emigrating or removing the population he finds necessary, but driving off his tenants, without any provision.

8352. Do you think that there would be a less tendency on the part of the landlord to diminish the number of his tenants, if the labour of those tenants was profitable to him, than if their existence on his estate was burdensome?

Certainly; if the labour was unprofitable, it would be very much his interest to remove them.

8353. If the condition of the landlord be made by law such as to make it unprofitable to employ those labourers, will not his disposition to diminish their number augment?

I should apprehend that it would.

8354. Supposing he is associated in an Electoral Division with a great number of persons whose estates are ill managed, and whose paupers he has to maintain, will he have the same motives to employ labour as if every labourer whom he employed was a labourer the less for whom he had to pay in his own Electoral Division?

I should think he would clearly be desirous of employing more people, if he was not responsible for any people but those within the district from which he employed them. But here we again approach the questions which consider labour and relief equivalent.

8355. Must not that be amongst the motives which, within due limits, lead you to recommend a diminution of area?

Decidedly. If, instead of having 20 proprietors in one Electoral Division, there should be but four or five, they will be more likely to combine.

8356. In all power of combination or of individual action, will not the motives for a reduction of the rate and employment of the people come into joint operation?

They probably will; I do not doubt that they will; but relief labour does not indicate a healthy state of things, and ought not to be looked to, except as a temporary means of getting over an occasional pressure.

8357. At the same time, if the area of taxation was limited to single properties, would there not be a risk of increasing the tendency of the landlord to get rid of any hands that he might not wish to employ?

That is not at all a certain thing; there is a great deal to be said on both sides of that question; it has been very much pressed upon us. I do not know that the tendency is so entirely to get rid of them as it has been said; it is very much a question of opinion. When I say that, I feel it very difficult to answer on oath; it is a mere matter of opinion. I think that it would depend upon another consideration, the personal character of the landlord himself, and his own views of his own interests. No two people take exactly the same views; one may be continually doing a thing that is most ruinous to himself, and *vice versâ*.

8358. Was the question of evictions at all taken into your consideration in considering the proposed area of taxation?

Yes; it has been so much pressed upon us, that we felt it should have every consideration. It might be a very possible result, I think, of over-reduction; but I do not see that it must be an absolute and necessary consequence. With many people it would, to a certain extent, act, and it ought to be taken into consideration; but I do not attach that immense importance to it that many do. I do not think, to the extent of reduction proposed by us, that the danger can occur.

It

It is a tendency, and these tendencies in different directions are really so various that they are not over-easy to estimate.

8359. You think that within the present limits you propose to attach to Electoral Divisions you have not increased that risk?
I do not think it is increased.

8360. Have you ever heard that in those individual cases to which reference has been already made, as in the estates of Lord Abercorn, Lord Fitzwilliam or Lord Bessborough, where the boundaries are conterminous with property, evictions have been very frequent?
No; your Lordship has mentioned three of the best landlords in Ireland. The estates, moreover, are very considerable and well-conditioned.

8361. Would the effect be—suppose the area of taxation reduced as much as practicable to the estates of individuals—to encourage employment in the first instance, and, with regard to the surplus population, to raise money for the purpose of emigration?
That is a parallel movement; the same tendency that would operate on an ill-disposed person to evict would, in a more benevolent person, lead to employment as far as possible, and beneficial emigration afterwards.

8362. You distinguished just now, in reference to this difficult part of the case, the evictions by landlords, between the case of a person driven off an estate, and where provision was made for him by emigration; from your knowledge and attention to this subject, do you consider that there are many districts in Ireland to which the remedy of emigration is necessary and useful?
I do, indeed.

8363. You were examined at great length upon the subject of emigration from Ireland upon the Colonization Committee, were you not?
Yes, I was, in 1847.

8364. Do you see any reason to depart from the evidence and recommendations you then gave, or has your subsequent experience confirmed you in it?
I see no reason to depart from the evidence I then gave. I dwelt very much upon the superabundance of the population, compared to the means of the country, in particular districts, and upon the importance of public works in the colonies, as a means of giving a *locus standi* to emigrants, when they got there, till they could go forward. I think that those were the main points, and all those opinions remain in my mind the same.

8365. Were you not one of the Commissioners that were employed in carrying on the public works in Ireland?
Yes, I was.

8366. In what year were you appointed?
In the year 1846.

8367. There was an extension of the public works in the distress of that time; a necessary extension of employment given?
Just so.

8368. You were consequently in office at the time of the operations of Sir John Burgoyne in affording relief?
I was; they followed the operations in which I was more immediately concerned.

8369. Do you consider those operations practically to have been a large system of out-door relief for the destitution that then prevailed?
No doubt they were.

8370. Were not 700,000 people at one time employed under your authority?
Seven hundred and forty thousand was the returned number; the real number was probably still greater.

8371. One million five hundred thousand people were receiving rations under Sir John Burgoyne?
Yes, I believe that was about the number.

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8372. Do you consider that amount of out-door relief then given to be one of the causes of the difficulty felt at the present time in administering the Poor Law?

No doubt of it; like all other temporary and hastily arranged systems, there must have been a vast number relieved who ought not to have been relieved, and who fell back on the Poor Law, supposing that to take the place of the measures which had preceded it.

8373. Would it have been possible, with any organization that your experience, both as a civil and military functionary, enables you to conceive, to have administered that system of relief under the exigency of the times, and with the pressure that was upon you, without its leading to abuse?

I think it would have been very difficult. I should say that it would have been possible to have framed a system by which those works should have been so carried on as to have made the works in some degree beneficial; much more so than they were; and so to have prevented, when time permitted of reform, many of the abuses that obtained. But the principle of that law was, in my mind, so defective, that nothing that could have been done would have realized in their full or fair perfection, either of the objects to be obtained; either to have made the public works and expenditure of money of a nature useful to the country, or to have administered relief to the full extent to which relief was required.

8374. Can you consider any system of public works as safe or practically useful, in which the usefulness of the public work is not made the first object, rather than the mere relief of destitution?

That public works carried on for their own utility, and for the objects to be attained and expected from them, may be very useful in keeping down distress in the districts in which they are carried on, there can be no doubt; but the reason why public works are not applicable to general relief, is that you cannot find useful works of the very simple nature which alone renders them useful for mere relief in every district in which you require them for that purpose. In attempting to do so, you make labour auxiliary to relief; you confound together two things essentially different; you degrade the labour, and rob the relief of its benevolence, and you have no power of discrimination.

8375. Was not that one of the great causes which led to the melancholy disproportion between the amount of money expended, and the amount of benefit received?

Yes.

8376. Were not those works, in fact, in many instances crowded with the halt, the lame, and the blind?

No doubt they were; and that result must appertain to such a system anywhere; besides which, they were not in their end always such as would be useful. I think that the inutility of those works has been exaggerated, and that the expense has been looked at too heavily, and also the expense of the relief afforded by them has been somewhat unfairly contrasted with the expense of the relief given by the direct distribution of food, because Government remitted half the money expended in public works. When I said "unfairly contrasted," I should have said by the parties who had to repay it. The expenditure on public works, or on relief by public works, was about four millions, rather more, and of which the Government remitted half. Now, if the remaining half, which the counties are called upon to pay, is divided among all the people who received it, it will be found that the people who were relieved by public works, cost the counties $2\frac{1}{2}$ *d.* a day; and that is exactly the sum that they cost under the food relief. The relief, therefore, was not a whit more expensive, after the deduction for the half is taken away; nor can the counties fairly complain that the works have cost more to them than they are worth. I speak on the average; there may be many useless, but on the average it has never been denied that the works are worth half what they actually cost, and half is all that they are called upon to pay. The counties, therefore, had the relief by works at the same cost as the direct food relief, and have the works besides. They have, at least, something to show for the expenditure; under the food relief they have nothing.

8377. But

8377. But where those works are left unfinished, have they not done more harm than good?

I doubt that, except as to individual cases; a work may be injurious to an individual, and still beneficial to the public.

8378. Waiving altogether the question of local causes of complaint, is not the benefit of a work to be considered, not in relation to the amount which the counties may be called upon to repay, but in relation to the whole amount which has been expended, in proportion to the work done?

Certainly, as a political or general measure.

8379. If there has been a very considerable excess of cost, as compared with the benefit, do you not attribute that, for the most part, to the necessity that arose of employing parties who were not capable of labour, and which, again, was produced by mixing up the relief and the labour together?

Decidedly; those two things, instead of being combinable with each other, are directly antagonistic, whether in the form of that great national effort, or in the more common form of private labour; nay, in the notions which benevolent people are putting forward of employing their own poor people to keep them out of the Poor-house. By employing them only for that purpose, it appears to me, that if they extend that form of benevolence beyond a very short time, they do actual harm, and in any way in which those things bear upon each other, they do harm.

8380. You think that the legitimate mode is to consider the usefulness and the profit of the work?

Decidedly, and nothing else.

8381. In the long run have you any doubt, looking to the usefulness and profit of a work, more especially in a country like Ireland, that the incidental relief that will be given by creating a demand for labour, will be better than if the object of the work had been relief, in place of being an incident and consequence of the work?

None.

8382. Have not the Commissioners of Public Works been called upon to procure information as to the expense of completing the unfinished public works, or such of them as they recommend as being useful to the public at large?

We have not been called upon to make any general return; but the Act of last Session, cap. 51, empowered the Government to lend again on county presentments a certain amount of the repayments on account of relief works; all the repayments, in fact, which were to accrue within the next three years, amounting to 490,000*l.*; and in order to judge which of the works it was considered most desirable to complete, the Board of Works have obtained from the county surveyors returns of the present state of the works, many of which had been taken up and finished since we left them by the counties, and the amounts that it would take to complete them. The whole of those returns had not reached Dublin when I left; a great many had, and with the help of them, together with our own judgments, when presentments are now made for loans from this repayment fund, we judge whether to recommend them to the Treasury or not. I think I have said, that on an average the works are worth about half what they cost; and I remember that in the county of Clare, where the greatest amount of relief prevailed, and the greatest proportion of the population, some 60 or 80 per cent., I think, was employed; yet even in that county the value of the works was estimated as being one-third of what they cost, and that it would have been worth while for the county to have executed those works at any time at that rate. These are among the circumstances which should be borne in mind when the public works measure as a relief measure is considered. It was an experiment tried by the Government at a prodigious expense, and something was got, at all events, for the money. The food relief was distributed gratuitously, and avowedly without the intention of getting anything in return. In the first instance, the Government made an enormous effort to get something, and they did get the works, such as they are, which they afterwards made a present to the counties, who pay nothing for the works, but only for the relief, at the same rate as if the food had been distributed direct. The Government, *i. e.* the Imperial Treasury, has borne the cost of the experiment, and in using this as a guide for the future, we have only now to take

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care that we do not run into the other extreme, *i. e.* because public works proved expensive and insufficient as a sole mode of relief, on that gigantic scale, that we do not condemn public works as useless altogether, even as a collateral mode of relief.

8383. Was not the consequence of obtaining work for wages, as compared with the relief given gratuitously, this—that the small farmers, and the cottiers still more, were compelled by want to labour on the roads, and could not till their holdings, or even provide the seed with which those holdings should be sown?

No doubt, to some extent, but the works closed as the period for spring labour came on.

8384. Does not that constitute the distinction between relief given in the shape of work paid for in money, and relief gratuitously given?

The two might perhaps, even in that crisis, have been carried on together, if there had been time and machinery, but it would have been very difficult. There was a great difference in the season at which they were respectively carried into effect. The first effort to relieve the people by labour was made in the winter, when there was actually no food, or but little, in the country, and when the people could work out of doors with very great difficulty in bad weather, and indifferent clothing. The other measure came into operation in the spring, when the weather was fine, and when the days were long, and more work could be done; and just at the time at which the American supplies and the foreign supplies were pouring into the country; and when the relief committees, inspectors and officers were trained. It was, moreover, only brought gradually into operation, Union by Union, the works being continued in each Union till all was ready for it. If it had been attempted, in the first instance, to administer direct food relief, I fear it might have failed as signally as the labour.

8385. Supposing that, either during the relief works or Sir John Burgoyne's operations, the two had been combined, and that the really able-bodied persons had been employed on public works, whilst the more destitute had received gratuitous relief, would not that have been practically better than either of the systems which separately were employed?

Yes; if it had been possible that the able-bodied should have been employed only on useful works, and that the infirm and helpless should have been supported by food, it might have met that fearful season better; and I think you may now carry on public works in those districts where they are wanted for their own utility, with very great benefit to the Poor Law, during the present heavy pressure upon it.

8386. In the face of such an exigency as has lately occurred, should you be favourable, supposing funds to be forthcoming, to combining any system of public works for the able-bodied with gratuitous relief to the aged and infirm?

I fear it would be extremely difficult, in such a general and sudden emergency; the works and the relief should be wholly unconnected in the minds of the people, so that the relief afforded by the works should be purely incidental, and, as it were, unseen.

8387. But you have said that you would have preferred the combination of those two schemes to Sir John Burgoyne's operations alone?

No, to the labour rate alone.

8388. You would prefer Sir John Burgoyne's operations, without any admixture of public works, to a mixture of the two?

Yes, as a sudden and general measure of pure relief, because its administration is so much more simple and easy. The carrying on of works should be incidental, not connected with it. If you do not of necessity undertake public works where they are not wanted, and not for the mere sake of relief, I think that public works may always do good, and their co-existence with the present Poor Law may be no doubt very beneficial to the country in such periods as the present.

8389. When under any exigency you have combined in the same public work the able-bodied and active labourer, from whom you have a right to exact a full amount

amount of labour, and the poor and infirm, the child and the woman, is not the tendency to reduce the whole amount of labour given to the level of the lowest?
I have no doubt it is.

8390. Did you not feel that so strongly in Ireland, that you had recourse to task-work on many occasions?
We endeavoured strenuously to introduce it.

8391. Does not the whole effective power of task-work depend upon the honesty of the parties, and the intelligence of the parties who have to assign those tasks, to fix the rates, and decide upon the measurement?
To a very great extent it does.

8392. Was not one of the great difficulties with which you had to contend, finding persons in whose skill and knowledge you could sufficiently rely for the purpose of executing task-work?
There was no such set of persons that could be found in sufficient numbers; if we could have transferred the whole corps of Sappers and Miners into Ireland, we could have accomplished it; there was no other body existing by whom it could have been done as a body.

8393. Practically speaking, were not cases brought before you in which you found the rates of labour inordinately great that were charged to the public, in consequence of the incompetency or the want of principle in the parties whom on the exigency you were compelled to take?
I do not doubt that.

8394. Having made that calculation, to which you have referred, with respect to the profit, in proportion to the expenditure upon public works, have you made any similar calculation with regard to the profits derived by those who undertook the works carried out under Mr. Labouchere's Letter?
The works undertaken under Mr. Labouchere's Letter were much better circumstanced; they, doubtless, cost more than they would, if they had been executed in ordinary times; but they are not liable to all the objections that the others were; the helpless and infirm were not employed upon them.

8395. Do not you think that the Government having remitted one-half of the cost of the public works, and having sent an order for repayment of the whole cost of those which were undertaken under Mr. Labouchere's Letter, that those who have acted under Mr. Labouchere's Letter have derived great disadvantage, in comparison with those who did not so act?
That is a question that it is very difficult to answer. I have heard that question raised, and I think some consideration might possibly be given to it. At the same time, although the expense of Mr. Labouchere's works, in some cases, was excessive, I think, on the whole, that they were not so, as compared with the work produced and the circumstances of the country. It is not long since that a nobleman in the county of Limerick complained of the expense of Mr. Labouchere's works, when the value award was made out, and he caused the work to be very rigorously examined by a man who is now superintending his works under the Land Improvement Act; and, comparing the one with the other, he found that the cost of Mr. Labouchere's works was nearly double what the Land Improvement works are now costing; but he inquired into the prices of provisions, and the prices of clothing, fuel, &c., and he found that they were all double at the same time; so that the cost of Mr. Labouchere's works was not, in proportion to the times, more expensive than the cost of ordinary works would be now; then they are, to a certain extent useful, and useful only to the proprietors; there was no attempt to make them useful to the public.

8396. Were they not so far useful to the public, that the labourers fixed upon to perform them were not fixed upon with relation to their ability for the work, but solely with a view to giving relief to paupers in distress?
That would be strictly applicable to the argument, if they had been supplied by the Relief Committee; but such was not the case; they were picked out from the other works. It was the habit of the officer in charge of the ordinary work, on the requisition of the Engineer, who had the superintendence of Mr. Labouchere's works, to strike off a certain number of men from the public works, and to see that no bad workmen were put on the Labouchere works.

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8397. The proprietors who gave the employment had not the power to choose the workmen?

No.

8398. Supposing a case in which the only work given was in drainages, as under Mr. Labouchere's Letter; I believe the case occurred in the barony of Farney; must not there necessarily have been a certain number of distressed persons left out of work?

The barony of Farney, the last example, belonged to two proprietors, Lord Bath and Mr. Shirley, and was very satisfactorily conducted by the Engineer in conjunction with the agents of the property, and they have always expressed their extreme satisfaction. I take it that the poor and helpless people either never existed, or were otherwise relieved. The barony of Farney was put under that operation from the very commencement of the labour work, and the people never got helpless or infirm; they were never reduced to a starving state.

8399. Must there not have been many women and children, orphans and widows in that barony, as in all others?

To the same extent, I doubt, if it was very great. In Mr. Labouchere's works, incidental labour was found for the women and children, such as picking stones for the drains; but the main difference in that instance was from the great territory of Farney being comprised in two properties. Mr. Labouchere's works were put in operation there immediately, and that district never fell under the blight of the common public works.

8400. Could this beneficial operation have existed, except from the property being in the possession of a number of individuals not too great to admit of combination among them?

It certainly would not; but for that circumstance, I must add, that my recollection of the difficulty we experienced in getting a sufficient number of undertakers in the Electoral Divisions to combine for Mr. Labouchere's work, is one of the points that has always pressed upon me in reducing the Electoral Divisions. If there had been a smaller number of proprietors, I think they would have combined more readily than they did. It was the greatest opportunity for combining that was ever presented. There was a great effort to reduce that measure to townlands, which the Government resisted, I think, very wisely. Mr. Labouchere went the length of reducing the Relief operations from baronies to Electoral Divisions, and if those divisions had been smaller, my impression is, that it would have worked much better.

8401. Do you believe that any number of individuals would have been found to have acted under Mr. Labouchere's Letter, if it had been announced that one-half of the sum taken for the public works would have been remitted, and no portion whatever under Mr. Labouchere's Letter?

I do not know. That would have made a great difference, no doubt.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, One o'clock.

Die Jovis, 3° Maii 1849.

The EARL OF ST. GERMANS in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Irish Poor Law.

JAMES LENNOX WILLIAM NAPER, Esquire, is called in, and examined as follows:

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8402. YOU are a landed proprietor in the county of Meath?
Yes.

8403. In what Union do you reside?
I reside in the Union of Oldcastle.

8404. Have you taken an active part in the administration of the affairs of that Union?
I have been Chairman of the Oldcastle Union from the commencement till the last two years.

8405. Has your experience in that capacity enabled you to offer any suggestions to the Committee for the amendment of the law?
I think it has enabled me to do so.

8406. Will you offer to the Committee such suggestions as you think it desirable should be brought under their consideration, in any order that may be most convenient to yourself?
I ventured to put my opinions in the form of a pamphlet. I was told by the Lord Lieutenant that he thought it was desirable that I should be examined, and I therefore endeavoured to prepare myself for such examination; and in preparing myself, I had occasion to write a good deal upon the subject; and therefore I ventured, thinking that perhaps I should not be examined, to print my ideas in a pamphlet. Of course it would be far too general in that way to call your Lordships' attention to it, but the particular point to which I am most anxious, in the first instance, to call your Lordships' attention is, that the evidence generally procured is evidence from Public Officers, Commissioners and Assistant Commissioners, and is very often far too general; and it does not appear to me that landed proprietors like myself have had what may be considered sufficient fair play. In the working of the Poor Law, with which it might be said I had something to do, having been an original Commissioner, they have expected too much from one point; that in consequence of the great failure of the potato, and the distress, instead of endeavouring to divide the proceedings and the difficulties into two departments, they have kept the whole at one point. It was always my opinion that the Board of Works should have been called in as a great assistant. Immediately after the distress I attended four or five meetings, having not only property in most of the Electoral Divisions of the Union of Oldcastle, but having property in some of the Electoral Divisions in Kells; I attended there also. The great difficulty from the beginning was, that individual responsibility was not sufficiently enforced. The meetings were too large, being Barony meetings and Union meetings, so that, though the property which I happen to represent in the two Unions of Oldcastle and Kells extends over 19,000 English acres, yet still I had little or no weight as an individual proprietor in those meetings, those two Unions extending over 200,000 acres; and unfortunately, too, it appears to me, that ever since that time, two or three years ago, the tide has been turning against the landlord, against the active and improving landlord, the active and intelligent tenant, and also the able-bodied and willing labourer; all those three, instead of benefiting by what has been doing, are all being depressed. One of the reasons of that is in some cases the size of the Unions. I do not, however, consider that

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to be the case with the Union of Oldcastle, which extends over about 100,000 acres, and is a manageable Union; but there is this very great difficulty, that it is a Union situated in three counties and two provinces; the consequence of which is, that the different parts of the Union have no natural connexion. The most distressed part (quite contrary to what the public might be led to suppose) is in Ulster, and that part which is in Ulster we have no more natural connexion with than we have with towns in Connaught, or any other county. So much is that the case, that though I now have lived in the neighbourhood of that part of the Union for 30 years, I know little or nothing about it, except a small portion of Lord Headfort's property. I never set foot in that part of the Union at all. We have a most active and intelligent Poor Law Commissioner now, Mr. Deane, who was exceedingly surprised to find that a person like myself, who had turned my mind so much to the subject, knew so very little of a portion of our own Union. I mention this, because this is an evil common to the whole country. To illustrate what I have to say, I will produce a map or census, which I do with great diffidence because it relates to my own property; but such is the danger in which the landed proprietors are placed, that it is absolutely necessary for some landed proprietors such as I am to come forward and submit to your consideration what in ordinary times might be looked upon as our own private concerns. At present it comes to this, that unless we can convince the English public of the real state in which our property is, the real state of the labourer, the farmer, and the landlord, we shall go from bad to worse. The present mode in which Her Majesty's Government are conducting Irish affairs is such, that I have no hesitation in saying, with no disrespect to the Government, and with no wish to find fault with most of the Irish measures which they propose, which if I had the honour of a seat in the House of Commons or the House of Lords I should support, but nevertheless I must say that they are bringing us almost to utter and speedy destruction. This census was made by a very active and intelligent agent, to whom I had the good fortune to commit the management of my property, and it exhibits very extraordinary examples of the situation of the different tenants and townlands, and more particularly with reference to the cultivation of those townlands; for it is almost impossible to raise the condition of a person upon what I may call the bad or the dormant townlands. They have no means; they have not the cattle and the produce so as to take advantage of good culture, or if they have turnips, they have nothing to eat them. So different is the condition and extent of the holdings on my property in the Union, that I am the landlord of a farm of 900 acres held by one individual, and also of farms of one or two acres. The practical result is, that the system of farming, the whole social system and cultivation of the ground, is perfectly different, and will bear no kind of comparison.

8407. You could not give any average of the size of the farms?
It is impossible to average 900 and 1.

8408. Those are extreme cases?
Those are extreme cases; but you can make no average. I will endeavour to draw a comparison between one farm of mine, Lower Crossdrum, which is 595 acres, or, statute measure, 964 acres. This is a farm held upon what I consider to be the best sort of tenure; this farm has been held for more than a century by the same family, and the leases have always been renewed without their falling in. I mention this, because I am most anxious that the English public should know and understand that there are Irish landlords who feel as much for this kind of tenantry, going down from father to son, and that sort of (if you choose so to call it) feudal system, which exists in England, as there are in England, and that as much respect and high feeling passes between such landlords and their tenants as can do in England. I mention this, because the consequence of it, in this instance, has been, that my family has never let this farm at anything like the rack-rent; I, myself, let this farm about 30 years ago, when I was supposed to be a very inexperienced landlord; but I have found that my experience 30 years ago, or rather my conduct to my tenantry then, was founded on as just a principle as it has ever been since. I came with completely English notions; I had no idea of letting my land except upon the English principle of what was the worth of the produce, and the value of the stock; acting in that way, the practical result has been, that I let this farm for 572 *l.* upon a lease of 21 years, and

and two lives; the tenant expended 4,000*l.* in building a house and offices and cottages, and the Government valuation of this farm is 944*l.*

8409. That is Mr. Griffith's valuation?

Yes, and the Poor Law valuation 888*l.* Now, I am anxious to contrast that farm with a farm which is not out of lease at this moment, or rather with two townlands which join, which are let to the same person. Those two townlands consist, the one, Milltown, of 630 statute acres, and the other, Springhall, of 154 statute acres; those have been held for a period of full 70 years by one tenant; one tenant has held them both, as far as I am concerned. The one was let at the period of the original lease about 80 years ago, the 630 acres for 224*l.*, and the 154 acres for 40*l.*, and they have neither of them been leased by myself since.

8410. Were any buildings erected on those townlands at the expense of the tenant?

There have been buildings; those two farms are of a superior quality of land; the first farm, Lower Crossdrum, to which I alluded, was held in occupation by a tenant of a higher class; the others, Milltown and Springhall, were tenanted by what is almost lost now, a small farmer holding from 50 to 70 acres. The original taker never occupied, but he either farmed or let to a class of tenants holding from 70 or 80 to 40 or 50 acres. In fact, it was held by about 30 tenants, a class of tenants who, if they had been fairly dealt with by the middleman landlord, would have been very much what would have served Ireland at this moment; but unfortunately there was a long lease of three lives and thirty-one years (that is 31 years from the expiration of the last life), and the consequence of that lengthened lease was, that the original tenant of my family became a landlord, and he let to those persons, and so from various causes kept raising the rent till the middleman's rent in 1841, when I was anxious to buy his interest from him, amounted to about 650*l.* The practical result which I wish to endeavour to arrive at, is the very great difference at this moment in the situation of the two townlands, the result of the present mode of rating; for the first townland which I have mentioned, Lower Crossdrum, is valued at 888*l.*, whereas the other two lands, Milltown and Springhall, which in point of fact join together, are only valued to the Poor Law at about 450*l.*

8411. Do you think that a pretty accurate valuation relatively?

I think it is. Now I will endeavour to call your Lordships' attention to the practical result of placing the pressure of the Poor Laws, in the first instance, upon Unions and Electoral Divisions, instead of what I hope to be able to convince your Lordships would be the right thing, placing it, in the first instance, upon the townlands, and when the townlands are unable to bear greater pressure, to put that pressure upon Electoral Divisions, or even upon the Unions, or even upon the public at large. But the practical result, as it stands now, is this: that this townland, Lower Crossdrum, of 960 acres, has been found to employ, as far as agricultural labourers are concerned, at least twice or three times as many agricultural labourers as the other townland, which is valued at so low a rate. Independently of that, the agricultural produce of those townlands is very different; one is what is called a large grazing farm, and is vulgarly supposed to employ very few labourers. Now I have already stated that it employs the greatest number of labourers, three times as many as the other two townlands; we arrived at that result at this time last year, by endeavouring to introduce a system of united labour; we endeavoured to work the Electoral Divisions by taking a census of the Electoral Divisions, and then distributing the labourers by hundreds of acres; the practical result was this, that about three men to 100 acres would have employed the whole of the population, taking the whole of the labourers that could by possibility have claimed relief under the existing Poor Law. Having, myself, considerable property in each of those Electoral Divisions, I was in the chair at four or five of those meetings, and I satisfied all the respectable and wealthy part of the community of the desirableness of it, and we all agreed to do it; but it was found that those townlands which I have mentioned, and others which I could point out here, could not enter into our views; they never had employed what may be called day-labourers at all; the system had been that of employing their own families, or letting very much in what is called con-acre, upon the potato con-acre principle; so that if a man had 50 acres of land, instead of his cultivating 10 of those acres himself for a

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green crop, or a seventh part under green crop, and seven or eight or ten acres under turnips and potatoes, as an English farmer would do, which would require a considerable sum of ready money, their plan was to let this land to their neighbours; and the consequence was, that instead of their having any thing to pay, they had 5 *l.* or 6 *l.* or 7 *l.* an acre to receive; so that when the failure of the potato crop occurred, and great pressure arose in various directions, it was impossible to expect them to put their hands in their pocket and pay five or six day-labourers on a Saturday night. If we had succeeded, and had grown those large crops of turnips instead of potatoes, there was nothing to eat them. On turning to the census of these townlands, I find one of them, Lower Crossdrum, with 20 pigs and 300 sheep, 120 head of cattle and 10 horses. Upon this farm there are 56 acres of cereal produce, against 141 upon the other; but I will answer for it that the 56 acres upon this farm will produce very nearly as much as 100 acres did upon the other. One was under a high state of tillage; I have not the returns here, but my agent sent me a return the other day, showing that about six or seven barrels an acre was the produce in oats upon the one farm, whereas on the other farm about 14 or 15 barrels an acre would be the produce; therefore I wish to call your Lordships' attention to the fact, that the acreable produce does not show the wealth of a townland.

8412. By "acreable produce" you mean the area?
Yes, I mean the area.

8413. Could you, in explanation of this evidence, give the Committee the population of the different denominations?
I will come to the population presently. There were 10 pigs; this was last year; of course this townland had a vast number of pigs some years ago, but last year there were 10 pigs, 20 sheep instead of 300, 73 horned cattle, 25 horses instead of 10; the horses were too numerous. As a practical farmer, I must beg to observe, that is always the case in small holdings; but they do not use the horses for their own tillage, but job them out as well as they can among other farmers, and there were four asses. As to the population, the population of this townland, Lower Cross, in 1841 was 40, in 1848, 52; there has been no material change. Those 40 persons were the families of agricultural labourers of the townland. The tenant's family is not taken in; the tenant, in fact, is a gentleman, a magistrate, and a person, I believe, nearly as well off in circumstances as I am. I mention this to show that on such a farm as this, a very large grass farm, there was no starvation; there was no reason for getting rid of the population.

8414. Was that the total population, or the number of agricultural labourers?
It included the families of the agricultural labourers, but I think it did not include the tenant's family.

8415. Was the increase between 1841 and 1848 of from 40 to 52 persons, by an increased number of houses being built there?
No, I should think in the mere birth of children; there might be the taking in of a fresh family to a vacant cottage; but it was mere natural increase.

8416. The number of cottages was not increased in the interval?
Not at all.

8417. What was the population of the two other townlands?
The population of Milltown, in 1841 (being 630 statute acres) was 649 persons, and in 1848 there were 538 persons; that population had decreased, probably, partly from disease.

8418. And from emigration?
There has been little or no emigration from this townland; in the other townland, Springhall, of 154 acres, the population was 166 in 1841, and in 1848 it was 145.

8419. Then, does it not follow from what you have stated, that upon the farm of 964 acres, there was a small but an increasing population, and upon the two other farms there was a large and a decreasing population?
Yes; but the decrease of the population was entirely owing to its number and its extreme poverty.

8420. And the increase might have been the result of accident?
Yes, it might have happened upon any farm.

8421. Therefore

8421. Therefore in the year 1842, upon the 964 acres farm, there appears to have been a population of 52, and in the same year, upon the two farms of 714 acres, there was a population of 683?
Yes.

8422. The smaller population of 52 were placed upon the area, which was valued at 888 *l.* to the poor-rate, and the larger population of 683 upon the property valued to the poor-rate at 450*l.*?
Yes; I wish to observe with reference to those two townlands which I have been mentioning, that the original lettings were very much in point of amount in favour of the depressed townland; it was much higher let 80 years ago, in proportion, than the townland which has flourished so much. The townland which had the greatest number of people upon it, was by far the most valuable townland 80 years ago. I am anxious to show that without a townland pressure in the first instance, such a townland as I have mentioned, a townland so circumstanced, under the middleman tenure or rack-renting head landlord, will still remain in exactly the same state as it is at present, or perhaps get into a worse state. The pressure which is proposed by Lord John Russell's new Bill, of 5 *s.* upon the Electoral Division, is so small a pressure, that it amounts to little or nothing when you consider that a townland so badly cultivated and so populous can only be revived by a different system of husbandry, and a very considerable expenditure of money. It appears that the Poor Law valuation of the two inferior townlands, the wasted townlands, is 447*l.*, and 5*s.* in the pound upon that does not amount to much more than 112*l.* or 115*l.* a year. That pressure and that expenditure, upon between 600 and 700 acres, is nothing to produce any practical result, except upon a very small portion of it. The great error which I think is being committed is, that when we come to try and recover the townland from this bad state, by putting some pressure of money expenditure upon it, it has not been considered that a considerable sum must be used for that purpose. Now, it so happened that within the last 12 months one of the two exhausted townlands, Milltown and Springhall, fell out of lease, either by the death of a life, or by the expiration of the term of years. The practical result of that was, that they came upon my hands. I signified to the tenants, they owing the middleman landlord a year's rent, that I should expect them at the end of the year to pay me half the middleman landlord's rent; but the result of this application to them was, that some of them were unable to pay half the middleman's rent, and were immediately served with an ejectment. I wish to observe here that when landlords of my sort serve ejectments, it is with no purpose of sending them off and totally destroying them; but it is the only practical mode that we have of showing our authority as landlords at all.

8423. Is it also the only way in certain cases of recovering the rent?
It is the only way of recovering the rent.

8424. So that, whether for the purpose of fixing title and ascertaining possession, or for the purposes of recovering rent, such are the causes frequently which render ejectments necessary?
Certainly; upon the tenantry finding that I was in earnest, and determined to exercise my authority as a landlord, some of them came and immediately surrendered about 20 acres of the land, I at once agreeing to assist them to go to America, which I did. The 20 acres of land were surrendered about three or four months ago; I immediately applied the system of spade husbandry to those 20 acres, and on 15 of the 20 acres the practical result is, that I suppose those 15 acres are almost as well cultivated as it is possible to cultivate such land.

8425. In about how many hands were the 20 acres before?
There were about from 15 to 20 people who left the land. I wish to call your Lordships' attention to the practicability of employing the pauper population of a distressed townland of this kind upon a small portion of it; 20 acres is about a seventh part of the 145, and I consider that it is of that description of soil that the seven-course system would be most advantageous. In the process of cultivating this 20 acres, I was struck with the feasibility, supposing this townland had owed a considerable arrear of poor-rate, of taking a fair portion of the land, say a seventh portion of it, and employing the people in the cultivation of it; because the practical result of what I am trying, will certainly raise produce of 60 *l.* or 70*l.* value, if we have no failure of the crop; the whole valuation

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valuation of this townland is only 85 *l.*, and we shall produce upon the 20 acres a crop that will very nearly equal the full value of the townland to the poor-rate. Then, supposing that townland was obliged to pay to its full value before it appealed to any other townland for assistance, or if it paid half its value, that is 42 *l.*; if there were a pressure upon that townland in the first instance for half its Poor Law value, 42 *l.* or 43 *l.*, then the cultivating merely a seventh part of it would produce the full amount of its rate. I wish to call your Lordships' attention particularly to this, because it appears to me, that in a townland where there are no means of collecting the rate, this method of employing the people by taking possession of a portion of the townland, would be most desirable; for instance, every tenant who, through his inability to pay poor-rate, was dispossessed of his land, might make over a certain portion of it either to the Poor Law Guardians or to a District Board of Works, or to some authority, who might work it with the Poor Law rate; and it would be feasible to borrow that rate not from the wasted townland, but from other townlands which may be said not to be wasted. Perhaps I shall make myself better understood if I take now a townland called Ballany, which is in the same Electoral Division as the townland of Springhall, which I am now talking about; because I am anxious to show your Lordships the possibility of borrowing from one townland, instead of totally sinking the rate, in order to employ another. In the Electoral Division of Moylagh, in which the townlands of Springhall and Ballany are, it appears that the whole expense to the Electoral Division of keeping the poor in the townland of Springhall, was 12*s.* 6½*d.* in the pound, and that the expense of keeping the poor in Ballany was nothing. There was no person sent in from the townland of Ballany; but the townland of Ballany had to pay in this year 63 *l.* poor-rates, of which 48 *l.* went to the assistance of other townlands in the Union. I therefore conceive, that as those townlands are on the same property, it would have been possible, supposing the law allowed it, to have borrowed from my tenants the 63 *l.*, and to have expended it in the cultivation of those 20 acres, which is pretty much what I shall have expended; and then the crop would have repaid those tenants back again. I mean, that on looking over the return, and finding that a townland in this Electoral Division had paid 63 *l.* without any practical advantage, except supporting the labourers of the whole of the Division in idleness, it would have been a great practical advantage if they could have borrowed and employed the sum in cultivating the 20 acres of ground which I have already proved by the system of tillage is now put into a very high state of cultivation.

8426. Will you state the particulars from which you conclude that you will realize the sum you have mentioned from those 20 acres, by what process of outlay, cultivating and cropping?

By the process of digging and subsoiling. I hold in my hand the returns to the Agricultural Improvement Society of Ireland of the Reports made by practical instructors. Here is the Report of Mr. Starkey, who visits a great quantity of land in Mayo; it appears that a quantity of property in Mayo is circumstanced very much as this unfortunate small property of mine is; it is worn down by constant cropping. The tenantry are doing there what they would have done with me if they had stayed, which is putting second or third crops of grain into stubbles, which is utter destruction; and I have no hesitation in saying, that wherever a tenant takes three or four white crops, or even manures the land to take a fifth white crop, he has injured the soil, and puts himself in such a situation, to the prejudice of his landlord, that he must leave the land. It is impossible that he can deal with a landlord of the first class.

8427. You have stated that such a course is contrary to the interest of the landlord; is it not, contemporaneously, contrary to the interest of the public likewise, by exhausting the staple of the land, and diminishing the amount of produce that will ultimately be raised?

It is, certainly.

8428. Will you state the expenditure upon those 20 acres of land which you have taken into your own occupation, and the receipts, so as to prove that the balance would amount to the sum requisite to maintain the poor?

I am afraid I cannot arrive at that, because I am in the act of doing it myself, and it is only in course of operation; but I was much struck by the employment of spade labour this year. It is the first time that my tenantry have at all been

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been inclined to leave my property. This is the first time that eight or ten of my farms have been given up; the practical result of giving those farms up is, that I have been obliged to turn farmer myself, and I am using, as much as possible, spade husbandry. I find, in so doing, that, certainly, at an expense of 2 *l.* or 3 *l.* an acre, I am enabled to prepare the ground where it is not necessary to trench the whole of it; where it is necessary to trench it, I should say it requires about 5 *l.* the statute acre. In those cases, I find that I am able to cultivate the land in such a way as to bring the land at once from producing merely five to six barrels an acre, to producing from 11 to 12 barrels an acre; and my crop this year, if it is at all a good season, will be to that amount; because the quality of the soil is totally altered; it brings up a loam and a quantity of soil that has never seen the light. In looking over the Returns, I find there is a great deal of land in Ireland very analogous to the land I mention, very unlike anything I ever saw in England; it is full of what they call boulders or rolled stones; they occur very unequally. In this paper of the Royal Agricultural Improvement Society here is a printed Return of some successful application of the process upon this very ground. I was present at the digging; each man was to dig a square perch; there were eight or ten men digging a square perch, and eight or ten more trenching 12 and 16 inches. It was an unfair trial upon the men, because some men dug without stopping, and others were obliged to get crowbars, and to lift the stones themselves; of course great allowance is made in cultivating such soil. This land can be dug for about 1 *d.* the square perch. Here is an account of the time that it took to dig this; it was extraordinarily small; the first man dug a square perch in 43 minutes.

8429. You calculate that by this process, upon these lands which have been tilled in the mode you describe, there will be, in your anticipation, provided prices are reasonable, a sufficient sum raised to meet the demands for the poor of the townland?

I think there would be a sufficient sum raised to meet the demand if a 10 *s.* rate was struck upon that townland in the first instance. I think the crop that I shall get off the 20 acres will fully meet the demand of a 10 *s.* rate.

8430. Are the Committee to understand that that is the gross value of the crop, or the profit upon the crop, after paying the expense of its cultivation?

I conceive that it would pay for the expenses of the cultivation; 43 *l.* would be a 10 *s.* rate upon this townland. The view I wish your Lordships to take is this, that if I was obliged to expend 42 *l.* either in employing labour or in supporting the labourers in the Workhouse, that 42 *l.* would be expended upon the 20 acres in such a way as to enable me fully to employ those people, and fully to repay any person that would lend me the 42 *l.* instead of giving it.

8431. Would it enable you to repay that person who had lent you the 42 *l.*, after defraying the expenses of the cultivation?

Yes, I think it would. The crop must be a very bad crop that will not produce 4 *l.* an acre, that is 80 *l.*; then that is double. I borrow 40 *l.*, and I have 40 *l.* besides.

8432. You said, that the expense was about 5 *l.* an acre?

That is for trenching; but I did not trench above two or three acres in the whole of it. The expense of the digging has been from 1 *d.* a perch to 4 *d.* or 5 *d.* a perch, varying according to the quality of the land. It is wonderful the difference in the state of the land. This is land about 400 feet above the level of the sea.

8433. Taking the ordinary run of land, at how much per acre do you think you could bring that land to produce this large return?

I do not think I can fairly say; it is a mere experiment; I have not the return yet. I am only trying to impress upon your Lordships the possibility and feasibility, in the case of a townland so peculiarly circumstanced, of allowing the landlord to make over, say, 20 acres of that land out of 150 to the Poor Law Guardians, or some public authority, in order to work it, for the purpose of redeeming those rates; and it would be possible to borrow from the Electoral Division, instead of taking the money altogether. If the money is spent in maintaining the people in the Workhouse, of course the money is taken altogether, and there is an end of it; there is no reproduction; therefore the scheme that I

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am trying to lay before your Lordships is, that instead of taking the money from the owner of the townlands, they should borrow it, and that they should be able to repay it to those townlands. While I am myself doing this in a very small way, I am endeavouring to lay before your Lordships the idea that it might be done in a very large way; that if it could be done in a townland, it might be done in a Union. In fact, what we want is, if possible, to revive the agriculture of the country; not by taking 300,000 *l.* from one set of Unions for the benefit of another, and throwing them all into a great cauldron, and boiling them down to nothing, but by lending money, and then upon a good agricultural system getting some produce. I do not know yet what my result will be; but I think I have sufficient grounds to feel sure that we can greatly advance Ireland by borrowing money for this purpose, and that our future proceedings will be much more beneficial by its being made matter of borrowing, and not matter of giving.

8434. From your experience as a proprietor in Ireland, should you have as great confidence in carrying on agricultural improvements upon those 20 acres, if they were carried on under the Poor Law Guardians, as you have when they are under your own agents and your own superintendence?

I certainly should not, if they were to be carried on to a very great extent; but where, as the fact now is, they are not carried on at all, and where it is impossible to get either the landlord or the tenant or the agent to do anything, it appears to me that some public body must do something. I have endeavoured to draw the attention of the public in my pamphlet to the Union of Oldcastle, as being a very central Union, comprising the difficulties of almost all Unions. In this Union there is the townland of Lower Dungimmon. There the landlord is not to be found; the tenant is not to be found; the magistrates tried to force the agent to pay the rate; but when he was summoned by the collector, he was found not to be responsible. I have here the magistrate's account of the proceeding; here is the magistrate's letter, showing what was the practical result; they could do nothing. Now this townland never will pay any rate as long as it stands as it is. If immediate occupation of the land is not obtained in a case of that kind, it will never pay any rate at all. In answer to your Lordships' question, therefore, I would say, that perhaps it would not be advisable to let the Poor Law Guardians, who have quite enough to do in the Workhouse, be the immediate body to do this; but that if there was a District Board of Works under the direction of the Board of Works, such a body would be very capable of handling land in small portions, as I myself, as a landlord, have done; and in order to prove that that is the case, here are resolutions entered into by some of my Lord Headfort's tenants, in some of the poorest parts of our Union [*producing the same*]. Here are the townlands; each gentleman takes a townland. I will answer for the respectability of almost all these people. If the townlands were divided, and my own tenants were put on, I will answer for the perfect practicability of cultivating a portion of those lands for the purpose of employing all the labourers and redeeming the rates.

8435. Is this practically an engagement entered into by the several parties who have subscribed it, to employ a certain proportion of labour?

Yes.

8436. Does it practically differ from that which you are no doubt familiar with, as the labour-rate principle?

The English labour-rate was a matter of arrangement with the farmers, I believe, and the landlords had nothing to do with it.

8437. Have you any confidence in any system which mixes up the two questions of relief and labour?

I confess that I have, for this reason, that I do not know how, in such townlands as I have shown, we are to put any vivifying principle into them, unless the landlords and tenants work together in this way, or by totally driving out the whole population and getting English or Scotch tenants, or Irishmen with capital.

8438. In this case, which you have described, of the smaller townland of Springhall, could you have carried your operation into effect, if the persons whom you kindly assisted in emigrating had remained in possession of their holdings?

No, I could not.

8439. That

8439. That was an essential condition for the trial of your experiment?
Clearly.

8440. In two districts such as you have described; namely, that of Milltown, of 630 acres, with a population, in 1841, of 649 persons, or more than one to an acre, and Springhall, of 154 acres, with a population of 166, being also more than one to every acre, would it, in your judgment, be practicable to apply any really improved system of husbandry sufficient to support those individuals upon cereal food and to pay their rates, if the number continued the same?
I do not think it would be possible for those two townlands to support all their poor, but I think it would have been very possible for them to have taken their share as was proposed. The townland of Milltown would have supported about 18 able-bodied by labour, under our proposed labour-rate; if the townland were to come into the hands of the head landlord, and he were satisfied to let it at its Poor Law valuation, I have no doubt that an arrangement could be made by which some of the best of the tenantry would be able to hold it at the Poor Law valuation, they undertaking to make certain improvements, which improvements would require almost the whole of the population, even dense as it is.

8441. Would that population remain upon the lands?
In hardly any instance would the whole population remain upon the lands; but what I fear is, that under the present system you will leave this population upon the land to the last moment, and that they will become so demoralized and wretched that we must sweep them off. Take such a landlord as myself, for instance; this townland will come into my hands in two years, and then we must sweep them off; they are so demoralized and so disorganized as tenants that nothing is left but to send a great part of them to America, and to try and find some other persons of capital who will take a long lease at a low rate in the first instance.

8442. Abstracting the question from rent, and only dealing with the question of produce and the support of the people, assuming the average quality of land, do you conceive that it would be possible to support, within one townland or other denomination itself, a population bred upon potatoes, and amounting to more than one per acre, upon the cereal food derived from that land?
Decidedly not.

8443. Would it be possible, by any process of improved husbandry, so long as the population continued in excess, to introduce such an improved cultivation, such a command of manure, and such a supply of stock, which would make that land profitable, even without taking the question of rent into account?
Clearly not; but at the same time how are you to make a beginning? My proposition is only for a beginning, because I suppose that only a certain pressure will effect the object; for instance, when a townland is not rated more than 1 *l.* an acre, the pressure of 10 *s.* is very small with reference to the sum necessary for its improvement.

8444. How many times does the gross produce exceed the rent; supposing the gross produce to be 150 *l.*, at what do you consider the rent ought to stand?
It has been reckoned at one-third.

8445. Supposing the rent to be 50 *l.*, and 25 *l.* to be the amount of the ordinary rate taken upon it, what effect do you think that would have upon the cultivation of the land, coupled with the possible chance of an indefinite augmentation of the rate; do you think that the farmer would cultivate with a 10 *s.* rate a-head of him?
I think he would, because in many cases the practical result of a 10 *s.* rate all over the Union of Oldcastle would be this, that none of the farmers would feel it at all; it would not come to them; you must work the 10 *s.* rate out in the bad townland before you come to the good townland, paying any thing than the support of its own paupers, of which it generally has none.

8446. Why would that be the case; do not they pay upon the valuation?
The Oldcastle Union last year had a rate put upon it of 4 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound, and 4 *s.* 3 *d.* was the rate applied; a 5 *s.* rate was struck upon the Electoral Division of Moylagh, and 3 *s.* 7 *d.* was all that was expended. Now, I do not see how a 5 *s.* rate would affect Springhall at all; Springhall will pass over unhurt,

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supposing it to be in its old state; Springhall really required a 12 *s.* 6 *d.* rate, though it only paid a 5 *s.* rate; the same result would happen under Lord John Russell's proposition. Supposing there is no Union rate, a 5 *s.* rate upon the whole of the Oldcastle Division will make no change whatever. Here is one townland that has paid its 5 *s.* rate, and is not benefited at all; it has had no paupers. Another townland has a 5 *s.* rate, and has received 12 *s.*; it has benefited more than double what it has paid; the practical result would be, that a townland in high cultivation would pay nothing till the others pay 10 *s.*; the consequence of that would be, that the bad landlord could not keep up his high rents. What we are feeling now is, that I have received 15 *s.* an acre for the last 30 years, and my neighbour has had 30 *s.* an acre, and mortgaged it upon that; and the practical result is, that now, if the mortgagee forecloses, he will buy it at 15 *s.* an acre; and unless he is covered by some other townland, he has lost one-half of his money; but I am prepared to show, that if he lays out 2,000 *l.* or 3,000 *l.* in the way I have described, he will probably bring up the value of the estate to what he has mortgaged it at.

8447. The only way of carrying out your plan is, by getting rid of every landlord who has not capital at command?

There are very few landlords that have their whole estate let up in that sort of way; those townlands that I mention are very rare. If I could only get my middleman pressed; if he had to pay his share of the 10 *s.* rate, he would find the difference between the rent that he pays to me, and the rent that he receives, so small, that he would be glad to come to me and make a bargain, and take a small annuity from me. If I had this townland of Milltown in my own hands, I should be glad if you put a pressure upon me even to the amount of 20 *s.*; I could raise upon that townland, if it was in my own hands, 1,000 *l.* or 2,000 *l.* with the greatest possible ease.

8448. Supposing the case of a townland overburdened with people, how would you deal with that; take this case, which is not a supposititious case, but a real one: a townland, consisting of 124 statute acres, valued to the poor at about 138 *l.*, was let in 1800 at 10 *l.* a year for the whole upon the tenure of three lives, two of which are still subsisting; it was let to one tenant under a covenant against alienation, but a covenant incapable of being enforced. At the present moment that townland contains 280 odd people upon the 124 acres of land. Upon the expiration of the lease, what increase of pressure in the shape of a 10 *s.* rate would be adequate to make the cultivation of the land for the support of the 280 people either profitable or practicable?

It is quite impossible; all I suggest is, that some pressure should be put on the townland in the first instance, instead of putting the pressure upon the Electoral Division; because the practical result of the pressure upon the Electoral Division is, that the townland neither changes masters nor gets rid of its population.

8449. Supposing in that case which has been put, there were a pressure of 10 *s.* in the pound, that is, a pressure of 60 *l.* upon that townland which contained 280 odd people, and is valued at 140 *l.* odd, and only pays a rent of 10 *l.* to the landlord; how would that pressure, so put upon it, make the cultivation of it profitable?

It is impossible to say that; but if the landlord only receives 10 *l.* lease-rent, and there is the middleman receiving a high rent, the pressure must be put upon the middleman; what right has the middleman to make this enormous profit? He has been going on since 1800 making this enormous profit; now, I conceive, that such a middleman as that ought to have the whole pressure put upon him.

8450. But in the case put, the result of the facts stated to you is, that the gross produce is insufficient to support the people upon the land; now, how is it possible, by a pressure put either upon the middleman or the unfortunate inheritor who receives only 10 *l.* a year out of this land, or the paupers who are starving, to make it profitable or advantageous to them to cultivate land so circumstanced?

Decidedly not; but that is an extreme case, and I conceive, that if you can put a fair pressure upon such Unions as Oldcastle, we should get rid of the middleman in the first instance, and the rack-renting landlord. The question now is, are you to sacrifice the honest fair tenant and landlord and labourer to the

the rack-renting middleman and the rack-renting landlord; I think that those should be first thrown over; at the same time, when I say "thrown over," I do not mean to destroy them. When it is shown that it would be utter destruction to go beyond a certain point, then they must receive assistance.

8451. Supposing the pressure to realize the results that you anticipate from it; would there be any practical way of making that pressure operative where there is that number of people in proportion to the acreage?

If you take extreme cases, it will be impossible to do anything; but what I am trying to impress upon your Lordships is, that if you take such a Union as the Union of Oldcastle, and bring the Union into a wholesome state, I am satisfied that the pressure of 10 *s.* in the pound upon the townland in one part of the Union would bring every thing straight; it would press the middleman so, that his interest would be so little better than the head landlord's, that he would come to an understanding with him, and he would be able to cultivate the land.

8452. The pressure you propose is for the object of inducing a better cultivation of the land, and giving effective employment to the people, is not it?

It is.

8453. Where the subdivision of the land has been by past events carried to its maximum, and where the majority of persons, as in great parts of Ireland, are occupying tenancies not exceeding two and three and four acres, and the population is in excess, as in the real case which has been put to you, not an imaginary case; is it possible to expect that the pressure, even supposing your theory to be correct, could realize the results which you anticipate from it, as long as that great excess of population continues?

Decidedly not; I have only suggested that as the foundation stone; unless something of that sort is done, we shall still remain where we are. On the contrary, in this Union of Oldcastle, which is a medium Union, or rather better than a medium Union, we are going down hill every day. It is only this year that a farmer of mine who took 200 acres of land of me, and is going on exceedingly well, came to me the other day, and said, that he was afraid to take a 21 years' lease, which he had engaged to take; I said, "You are right." The result now is, that I have put off the 21 years' lease for another year; I said, "I am quite ready to run the chances with you."

8454. In the early part of your evidence you spoke with regret of the disappearance of a class of tenants which formerly existed in certain parts of Ireland, which you considered might form an essential part of a social system there, namely, tenants occupying some 20, 30 or 40 acres of land, farming those lands advantageously; is that class of persons diminishing in number in Ireland?

I should say very much.

8455. You have spoken of the discouragement felt by large tenants, whose condition you have described; is that discouragement and uncertainty also felt by many of the farming classes?

I should say most decidedly.

8456. To what do you trace it?

I think very much to the uncertain pressure of the Poor Law, and that pressure not producing any good practical result.

8457. Do you yourself participate in that feeling so far that, if you were unconnected by birth and by affection with Ireland, the present state of things would indispose you from embarking capital in that country?

Most certainly. I go so far in my feelings, which I never felt before till now, that I would part with the property I have if it was not for my family; if I could foresee life for twenty years; and I would part with a very fine property, and a very fine house and place, and I would rather have 5,000*l.* a year upon a much reduced scale in England. I have a property that would let for 20,000*l.* if it was in England, but there is that total want of security, and the lower classes are so shaken to an extent that I had no idea of till within the last twelvemonth; but things have occurred to myself, and to every person holding land, that we should not have thought possible. There was a person who had been one of the most respectable of his station, something above a labourer; he was a sort of bailiff under me; he had a very nice cottage, and a very nice well-conditioned family; his

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his business was to look after the grazing of cattle. But this man the other day was so lost to all proper feeling that he reported that my agent wants 20*l.* at a short notice, and requests the people who had cattle grazing in the townland to pay him, and he immediately went off to America with that 20*l.* or 25*l.* He had as respectable a woman as his wife and as nice a cottage as one can expect to see.

8458. Is that a solitary instance, or is there now a disposition on the part of that class of persons to quit the country, and emigrate from it?

It is so far from being a solitary instance, that a tenant who holds a large farm from me told me that he sent up to Dublin the other day a confidential man, who was to have brought back some grocery and things for the family, and that man not only spent the money entrusted to him, but he went to a person with whom this gentleman deals in order to borrow 20*l.*, saying that the order came to 20*l.* more than he had; and he went off to America, writing a cool letter, saying that he was very sorry, but he found it more convenient to go to America; and it is only this day I heard from Mrs. Naper that that gentleman's footman went off to America without notice, adding thereby to his social discomfort.

8459. Is not the species of emigration which is now going on in many instances an emigration of farmers, taking away a certain proportion of the remnant of capital which has as yet escaped the pressure of the times?

I think that is so.

8460. Is that, in your judgment, injurious to the general interests of the country?

I think it is very injurious. At the same time I should wish to observe, that the system of cultivating by con-acre has been so exceedingly injurious to the real interests of the farmers and to the social system, that even supposing the potato crop had not failed, I do not think it was possible that the high system of farming which the Agricultural Society has been endeavouring to put forward could have been introduced into Ireland, without great failures among the small men who have gone upon the con-acre system of farms. I found, five or six years before the potato crop failed, a decrease in the payments of the small holders. The arrear on my rent was generally very small, but it nearly doubled. I suppose 300*l.* or 400*l.* was the extreme arrears that I ever had for the last 30 years. I always received my rent, with certain arrears of that kind. Before the potato failure, those arrears doubled, and I argue from that, that the system of cultivation was so defective that the small farmer must have given way before the improved cultivation, without any reference to the potato failure.

8461. The question was not as to the failure of the farmers themselves, but whether, under the circumstances of the last two or three years, there has been a disposition, on the part of the farming class, to emigrate, amongst whom such a disposition did not exist before?

Decidedly; in fact there was a very great indisposition to emigrate till now.

8462. Supposing matters to remain as they are, and the potato crop not to be restored, what do you anticipate will be the result upon the social system in your neighbourhood, and the power of supporting the people and maintaining the profitable use of property?

I consider that, except with proprietors and farmers of the very highest class, property must change hands; small proprietors must decidedly sell, and at any loss; they must sell at least a portion of their property. That will be the result as far as the small proprietors go; as far as the farmers go, the great body of the farmers, even with a reduced rent, will not be able to cultivate their land, because they have no capital to buy stock. The great defect in the Irish system is this; I have endeavoured to show the difference between a rent in aid and a rate in aid. The con-acre system was a rent in aid. There was a townland here which had 600 or 800 people upon it, but those people did not make the rent by cultivating that townland; they made the rent by going and letting the land at 5*l.* an acre to their neighbours, and some at the same time taking other land from their neighbours at a con-acre rent; it was a most extraordinary system.

8463. If the effect be to compel the sale of lands by reason of the unprofitableness of the cultivation of those lands to the present possessors, how will the

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new purchaser be exempted from the same causes which have made the previous holder an unprofitable tenant?

I do not see how he can be exempted from the same causes, because he will purchase the townland, and unless he employs the whole of the people upon the townland, it will be a purchase of land with a body of persons upon it, supported by any body else's property which happens to surround it. The purchase of property in Ireland will be a most singular thing, for you purchase the land, and though you purchase it with the people upon it, you will not be bound to maintain them.

8464. Are not purchases of land in Ireland at the present moment, and under the existing state of feeling which you have described, matters that are rather theoretical than practical?

Decidedly. I think hardly any body will purchase, except some man resident in Ireland, who knew something of the property, and knew that it was a great bargain; he would run the risk, and there would be no difficulty, as long as the Poor Law pressure is as it is now, in making a very fair investment, except the risk of the loss of the property altogether; because, no doubt, if a man purchases land at the value of 15*s.* an acre, which was let at 30*s.*, and he still does nothing, it must be very bad land that will not pay 200*l.* or 300*l.* a year when it ought to pay 500*l.* or 600*l.*, so that a man might purchase land and get five per cent. for his purchase-money, and yet have his paupers living upon every body round him. You might purchase a townland now, covered with those persons, at so low a rate that you would be sure of getting your rent, and you would wait for better times, hoping that something would be done in the way of emigration, or something of that kind, and the great body of the people would be living upon your neighbour's poor-rates.

8465. The neighbours in the same Electoral Division?

Yes.

8466. You do not mention this as regards the whole of Ireland; are not there some parts of Ireland which are exceptions?

I should confine myself as much as possible to my own immediate neighbourhood.

8467. You do not mean to extend these observations to the whole of Ireland?

I should say that the difficulty in the really pauperized parts of Ireland would be, that nobody would purchase at all; but in my part of Ireland, in such a townland as Springhall, my family has never received more than 40*l.*, and it is only valued at 84*l.* Now I am satisfied that it would have paid me exceedingly well to have bought it at 15 or 18 years' purchase of the 84*l.*, because it is well worth from 120*l.* to 124*l.* to be let to a solvent tenant. But the extraordinary part of the thing would be, that although the purchaser would be purchasing the obligation of maintaining the population, they would go into the Poor-house, and be supported by the neighbouring properties.

8468. Are you not aware that a considerable portion of Ulster is very differently circumstanced?

Yes.

8469. You do not mean to include, for instance, the counties of Antrim and Down in these observations?

I do not.

8470. Are the Committee to understand, that you do not hold that an improving landlord is liable to have his profits absorbed by the poverty of his neighbours?

I am endeavouring to show, that if a person bought this townland at Springhall at its present value, and only looked to getting back the interest of his purchase-money, he might do that, leaving the Union generally to support all the paupers upon the townland.

8471. You were understood to say, that if a person bought the property, he would receive very good interest for his money, without suffering from the poverty around him, because the paupers upon his property would be supported elsewhere?

If he bought a pauper property upon such low terms. That particularly applies to my part of the world, because we have only these black spots very

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rarely; and Englishmen seem surprised that such things can exist in a neighbourhood where you see very fine crops and first-rate ploughing. But still I find, after 30 years' experience, and an immense expenditure of money, that I cannot improve those spots at all. Unfortunately the going in partnership keeps them as they are.

8472. Is not the tendency of the present system rather to perpetuate those spots of misery, and to extend them to other districts not as yet affected?
I certainly conceive that it is so.

8473. Has not it also this effect, to make an improving landlord, who is endeavouring to manage his estate well, pay for an indolent landlord, who has gathered around him a large pauper population?
Decidedly.

8474. With respect to those black spots, which you have so well described, according to your apprehension, is that subdivision of land, and consequent burden of pressure which at present exists in those places, traceable in many instances to the act of the owner of the land, or to the act of the middleman, in consequence of a long lease?
In my part of the world, entirely to the act of the middleman, in consequence of a long lease.

8475. Do you consider that, at least from the period of the peace and the cessation of war prices, it has not been the interest of the owner of the soil to promote the increased population, the increased subdivision of land, and all those characteristics which you have described as belonging to the black spots?
Decidedly not.

8476. Do you think that the law has been such as to allow an intelligent landlord, conscious that unlimited subdivisions were contrary to his own interest, contrary to the interest of the public, and contrary to the permanent interest of the tenantry themselves, even supposing that he had covenants against subletting, to enforce those covenants and avert that evil?
Decidedly not; it was impossible. The state of the social system was directly against the intention of the law. Even some of my own tenants come and pay for 20 or 30 acres, and get a receipt in their own names, and they are all the while subletting to their own children. The original tenant took from me 20 years ago, with the honest intention of holding 25 acres and cultivating it; but as soon as his family grew up, they insisted upon his dividing, and there was a subdivision against my knowledge or inclination; and the practical result of that is, that farms are broken up, and persons are now going to America, in consequence of having persisted in a social system which was fatal to themselves in the long run. A great deal has been said of the good done in the North, in Donegal, by Lord George Hill. Lord George Hill, no doubt, did a vast deal, and is endeavouring to do a vast deal of good; but he is 20 years behind me. I did exactly the same thing 20 years before; but the social system of the country broke down, and all my good intentions were defeated. The original tenants intended to act honestly; but their children have insisted upon con-acre and subdividing for marriage portions; every daughter must have 30*l.* That is got out by the system of letting a few acres at 5*l.* an acre for a corn crop, or 8*l.* an acre for a potato crop.

8477. Would it be contrary to your knowledge of facts and to your own experience to suppose that Irish landlords in previous times subdivided their farms and multiplied the tenancies with a view to make their profit of exorbitant rents, and that the complaints which they now raise against this are complaints against a mischief of their own creation?
As far as my knowledge as a landlord goes, it is a mischief of the tenant's own creation, contrary to the interest of the landlord, and contrary still more to the interest of themselves; and contrary, above all, to the interest of the labourers. The labourer does not exist; it is a most extraordinary thing in Ireland; here is a country that wants labour as much as any country in Europe, for the productive quality of the soil; yet there is no such thing in the county of Meath as a thoroughly comfortable respectable labourer. In this present state of things, if a man could earn 1*s.* or 1*s.* 2*d.* a day by task-work, he would be very unwise if he did not, as soon as he had made 10*l.* or 15*l.* or 20*l.*, go off to America

America with it. There is no such thing as a comfortable house; when I called upon Sir William Somerville last year, he said, "We have a most distressing account of 600 labourers striking on Sir Neal O'Donnell's estate, employed upon drainage; what is to be done?" I did not know the circumstances of Sir Neal O'Donnell's estate, but I felt what I should wish to be done upon my own. If 100 labourers had struck, I should like to be able to cull out the best, and to encourage the best to be able to say to them, "Here is a large quantity of work doing; I shall have my eye very strictly upon you; and the best 10 or 20 or 50 of you, I should be glad to put into permanent houses, and knock up a better house, and give you allotments upon the English system." Now, if that was encouraged, if we had any way of keeping the best men in the country, we should by degrees establish a body of agricultural labourers; but, unfortunately, the good men get a little money and go off.

8478. When you complain of the want of labourers in Ireland, do you draw a distinction between the cottier-farmer holding his three or four acres, and the labourer?

Decidedly; I think the cottier-farmer is very injurious to the labourer.

8479. You look upon the disappearance of the con-acre as in itself a good thing?

I look upon it as a good thing.

8480. And you think, as far as the improved cultivation of the soil is concerned, that the emigration of the small farmers may be the removal of a hindrance?

Decidedly.

8481. Have any of the larger class of farmers emigrated?

Not in my part of the neighbourhood; we hear a talk about it.

8482. Do those who have emigrated send back money to pay for the emigration of their relations?

The small farmers and small labourers send a great deal of money in a very short time.

8483. For the sake of bringing their friends and families out?

Yes.

8484. Is the species of emigration which is now going on such as conduces to the establishment of an improved social system?

The emigration of respectable families is injurious, I think, to the country.

8485. Upon the lands of Milltown there were about 20 persons emigrated; supposing that, on the one hand, one single individual had been taken out of 20 houses, or that, on the other hand, taking the number of individuals to a family of five, you had had the power of assisting in the emigration of four families consisting of 20 persons, which of the two would have been most conducive to the improved management of the farm of Milltown?

Taking four families, not taking individuals.

8486. Is not this single unassisted emigration that takes place now, chiefly confined either to those who are taking away some capital and can defray their expenses, or else single, able-bodied, stirring, active men by whose emigration there will rather be a loss felt by the country by losing their labour, than any gain felt by a diminution of the numbers?

I think the emigration in our part of the world that is going on, is very much by single men, and it is a very extraordinary thing, the quantity of single women that go off by themselves, and who seem to face the whole difficulty in the quietest way; it is most singular, and certainly will be very injurious to the well-being of the country, if it revives at all.

8487. Do you apprehend that those single women are especially sent for by their friends in America?

Their friends pay their passage, and they generally beg some clothes.

8488. Supposing a farm of 20 acres, containing ten families with two acres each; can you introduce an improved system of cultivation upon that farm, so as

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as to support a population bred upon potatoes, upon wheat or cereal food, without removing families as well as individual members of those families?

It would be quite impossible; upon such a farm as that, you must take them all.

8489. Are the men that go out first, apt to send for the rest of their family?

They are.

8490. Do they send for the whole family, or only for certain individuals of it?

Certain individuals; I think not the whole of the family; it appears to me that in order to counteract this going off of single persons, it would be very desirable if the Government would allow those persons that borrow money upon drainage and other works of that kind, to apportion a part of it to the location of labourers upon their properties.

8491. Would it be likewise, in your judgment, an advantage, supposing they had no property upon which they could locate that excess of population, to apply some of that money in assisting that population to emigrate?

I think a public fund is wanting for that purpose; the general situation of landlords is such, that there are no means. There are a quantity of houses left, by tenants leaving the country. From 5 *l.* to 10 *l.* would furnish a very comfortable sort of house for such people; you might have them with a quarter of an acre to each house, which would enable them to be legal agricultural labourers under the Poor Law. I conceive that would be a great inducement to some of the best labourers to stay, and would lay the foundation for good agricultural labourers.

8492. Supposing land to be divided after the fashion which you have described, or supposing the number of agricultural labourers to be increased without a subdivision of the land; is it possible to employ them or to set them to drain advantageously upon land upon which there is one individual hiring for every statute acre?

Decidedly not, if you are to take a whole country covered in that way; but in my part of the world the whole misery is in the black spot; if that black spot were ten acres, I should say put three or four labourers there, and emigrate the rest.

8493. Are not the Committee warranted in considering the county of Meath to be one of the best circumstanced counties, under the present system, in Ireland?

The county of Meath is the best able to bear a Poor Law of any county in Ireland.

8494. Take the Union of Dunshaughlin, for instance; does not the valuation of Dunshaughlin, as compared with the population, bear a greatly higher proportion than the majority of other Unions in Ireland?

Yes; and greatly higher than many parts of England.

8495. Then, are the Committee warranted in concluding that the inconveniences which you have described as exhibited in the county of Meath and in the Union of Oldcastle, are likely to exist in a more aggravated form in those districts where the pauperism is greater, and the wealth of the country is less?

Decidedly; but my great anxiety is to impress upon your Lordships the necessity of trying, as a beginning, to get into a wholesome state such Unions as are not worse than Oldcastle, but are better.

8496. It appears that the whole population of Oldcastle Union is returned at 48,373 persons?

It is.

8497. And the Poor Law valuation of that Union is 79,510 *l.*?

Yes.

8498. Upon comparison with the great majority of other Unions, will not it be found that the proportion of value to the population is very much in favour of that Union?

Decidedly.

8499. Does not that afford a proof that you have much greater facilities for providing

providing for the pauper portion of your Union, than can be obtained in other Unions?

There is no doubt that we have greater facilities, but we have a greater pressure in some few townlands than in many of the poorest Unions, where there may be a much greater extent of poverty over a large extent of country; but unless we had a good deal of well-cultivated land, it would be impossible for those people to exist; they have been driven upon those spots, and live either by employment or by pillage, particularly of sheep or turnips. Sitting as a magistrate, I have had great numbers of women and children brought in by the police, having been found, every one with a sack, carrying off turnips by night.

8500. May it not be inferred that a great deal of what you have stated as applicable to Oldcastle, would not be as applicable to various other Unions which are not so favourably circumstanced?

I am quite sure that there are other Unions that are much more difficultly circumstanced; and I should wish to impress upon your Lordships this, that if you cannot do something for such Unions as Oldcastle, which is a medium Union, it is quite hopeless to expect to do anything with any other, because they cannot be profitably assisted by loans from other quarters. My great object has been to try to impress upon your Lordships the necessity of having a wholesome system introduced into such Unions as are not in a decided state of bankruptcy. It seems to me that the Unions in the North seem to be satisfied, because they tide over the thing; but I think even in the North there are great defects in the system under which they bear those difficulties.

8501. You are a Poor Law Guardian in your Union?

Yes.

8502. Are you aware of the amount of the usual cost of supporting a pauper for a year in the Workhouse?

I think it is about 5 *l.*

8503. Are you aware what would be the expense of sending a pauper out to some of the colonies, say Canada?

I think about 3 *l.* or 3*l.* 10 *s.* was the passage of a single pauper; I think we have considered that the emigration would cost pretty much what a year's maintenance does, including clothing.

8504. Is not it obvious from that circumstance, that it would be a saving, in a financial point of view, rather to facilitate the emigration of a large number of persons whom you are obliged to support, than to be under the obligation of supporting them in the Workhouse during a period perhaps of many years?

Decidedly.

8505. Is not 5 *l.* rather a high allowance per head for emigration?

I think, probably, it might be done for less.

8506. Are there any other points upon which you wish to address any observations to the Committee?

No. With regard to emigration, it certainly would be most desirable if we could get rid, in our part of the world, of the persons that inhabit the bogs: they are what are called squatters, and they commit great depredations; it is not families of starved persons that steal the sheep generally, but it is a set of men who have combined together, and who live well upon mutton, and plunder; they do not merely exist.

8507. Has it come within your knowledge that many have committed those crimes in order to get confined in gaol or transported?

No; I cannot help thinking that when they find themselves before the magistrates, they rather say that, when it is not the fact; I cannot think that it is done for that purpose.

8508. But for some reason or other, has it come within your notice that crime has increased in the last three years to an enormous extent?

To an enormous extent; it is impossible to detect it in the present state of things.

8509. In the case of very small townlands, not exceeding two or three acres,

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of which there are instances in Ireland, would it not be difficult to apply the principle which you have recommended to the consideration of the Committee?

Decidedly, it would be difficult to apply the principle where they were very small; it would be very desirable in many cases to put two or three townlands together, if they were less than 100 acres.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, One o'clock.

Die Veneris, 4° *Maii* 1849.

The LORD STEWARD in the Chair.

COUNT STRZELECKI is called in, and examined as follows:

8510. YOU have been resident in Ireland for some years?

Yes, I was, as an executive officer of the British Relief Association for 18 months, during the distress of 1847 and 1848, and afterwards, two months as the Agent of the Treasury, to administer the remainder of the relief, on the same principle as I administered that of the British Relief Association.

8511. Under those circumstances, had you an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the operation of the Poor Law?

Yes, I had; I had an insight into the general operation of the Poor Law in Ireland.

8512. Will you state to the Committee whether you observed any deficiency in the operation of the Poor Law for the relief of the poor?

Considering the Poor Law abstractedly from present circumstances, by which it is influenced, and for which I do not believe that ever those who framed it had any intention or any view that it should provide,—that is, considering its operation under ordinary circumstances, previous to 1846,—I would presume to say, that, so far as my own experience goes, the Poor Law in Ireland might be rendered more stringent and effectual, first, by diminishing the size of some of the Unions, so as to render them more manageable; the geographical extent of some being such, that it is absolutely impossible for a Board to assemble regularly for the despatch of business; some of the Guardians having to come daily 18 miles to attend their respective Boards, as, for instance, in the Swinford and Ballina Unions. Secondly, by diminishing the number of the Guardians sitting on the Boards, you raise the qualifications of the remainder. Thirdly, by collecting, directly, the poor-rate from the lower classes of occupiers of land, which the landlord pays for them, in order that they may become impressed more forcibly with the evils of an unchecked expenditure, and contribute themselves to keep it down.

8513. Do you mean that the occupier should, in the first instance, pay the poor-rate, and that he should not be allowed to deduct it from the landlord?

That he should not deduct it from the landlord, but pay it himself to the collector.

8514. You mean that it should be, as it is in England, a rate upon the occupier exclusively?

Yes; in consequence of having the poor-rate deducted out of the annual rent, they do not bear in mind the provisions of the Poor Law, and they fall without any compunction whatever upon the funds which are provided by the Board of Guardians. And, lastly, it strikes me that some more stringent measures and more summary proceedings ought to be adopted against the defaulters of the poor-rate, in order to protect those who are always ready to pay it, and always act according to law, and who otherwise will be dragged down to the level of the delinquent paupers. The above suggestions refer entirely to the administration of the Poor Law under ordinary circumstances, and have no bearing upon the present exigencies, arising out of the failure of the potato crop in 1846; a

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calamity which was generally acknowledged throughout the world as an overwhelming one, and with which the Legislature and the English public dealt with as an exceptional and extraordinary case.

8515. Are you not aware that the Extension Act was framed with a view to meet these very evils?

Yes; but I am under the impression, that in so doing, it only complicated the original Poor Law. I believe that it relaxed the original Poor Law, and in checking the abuse of an excessive out-door relief, it committed an injustice, for it put a labour test upon the able poor, where there was no market for labour.

8516. You stated that some alteration in the size of the Unions, in your opinion, would be desirable; do you also think that some alteration in the Electoral Divisions is desirable?

There is no doubt that some of the Unions, as well as some of the Electoral Divisions, are of such extent, that neither a Board of Guardians nor a Relieving Officer are capable of entering into full cognizance of individual cases, and, therefore, it would be advisable to have the size of such Electoral Divisions altered also.

8517. Do you think it would be safe to diminish the size of the Unions without building additional Workhouses?

No; you must build additional Workhouses. In diminishing the size of the Unions, you are multiplying the number of the actual Unions, and consequently the Workhouses.

8518. When you stated that you think it would be desirable to raise the qualification of the Guardians, do not you consider that that would very much increase the difficulty of providing Guardians in the Western parts of Ireland?

It would be far more easy, perhaps, to cope with the last difficulty, by raising the qualifications, than by adhering to the original ones. To my own knowledge, some of the Poor Law Guardians have been on the relief lists, and the qualifications have been so low, that there have been Guardians who could neither write nor read.

8519. Do you believe that in those parts of the country where that description of Guardians was actually elected, there could have been found a sufficient number of a higher order of persons to occupy the offices?

Yes, I do; and I further believe that the higher order of persons have shrunk from the task and duties of a Guardian, because they could not satisfactorily to their minds work with a Board of so low a standard as some of the Boards had been.

8520. Then do you believe that one of their objections to accept the office was their apprehension of being associated with the lower grade of Guardians?

The objection was neither on the grounds of social distinction, nor from motives of pride; it resulted entirely from the consideration that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to explain things to men who previously had not been prepared to deliberate, and act according to constitutional forms of self-government, and thus to carry out any of the measures which their better knowledge might suggest; while, upon the other side, the people of those low mental qualifications had been always under the influences of evil-minded people, who imbued them with blind opposition to any suggestions made by more enlightened persons, and prepared them to resist and defeat any good provisions which the law contemplated. In the Westport Union, in some instances, during Lord Sligo's absence on Parliamentary duties, there was a most extraordinary difficulty in dealing with the Board of Guardians; but by the successful efforts of Mr. Lynch, the Poor Law Inspector, the Board of Guardians have been prevailed upon to adhere and act according to the resolutions which they have passed. Besides being destitute of business-like habits, which the duty of a Guardian presupposes, their minds have been too much engrossed with the anxieties of domestic life and the difficulties of their own position, to admit of a calm, steady, and disinterested application of all the provisions of that law to the benefit of the poor.

8521. Was

8521. Was there a pretty good attendance of *ex-officio* Guardians in the Westport Union?

Yes, occasionally. I never attended the Boards; I only know from information.

8522. Do you think that, upon the whole, the Guardians have improved from the experience which they acquired in the working of the law?

They have improved greatly, which is particularly owing to the influence and efforts of the Inspecting Officers, who were men of high moral and mental worth, and who, while they drilled the Boards into the working of the Poor Law, also diffused amongst them and the community at large business-like habits, and a higher standard of public duty than that to which the people in former times had been accustomed.

8523. Did you find that those Guardians of a low class were afraid of refusing relief to those who applied?

Yes; they always acted under influences from without; they had not at all that cast of mind which is capable of forming an independent opinion.

8524. Was their fault generally on the side of over-indulgence, or of over-strictness?

Over-indulgence; strictness, there was none. The desirableness of limiting the numbers of such persons to the minimum is therefore apparent.

8525. Would not you have a resident Guardian for each Electoral Division?

Yes, certainly.

8526. Where the Electoral Division is large, you would naturally require two?

Yes; but if the first point I have suggested was attended to, and the size of the Unions diminished, by which the number of the Electoral Divisions composing the Union would be diminished also, the Guardians representing the different Electoral Divisions would be limited in number.

8527. Do you think that the Vice-Guardians generally, who have taken the place of the Guardians, have discharged their duties effectively?

I was astonished that the Poor Law Commissioners had been capable of finding at each emergency such a number of men so well qualified to administer the law. There are instances, to my knowledge, of 20 or 30 Unions, where the most extraordinary difficulties have been overcome by the Vice-Guardians; and if, in some points, the same difficulties had not been overcome by them, it arose more from the painful positions in which they found themselves, surrounded by the complicated state of the Union, than from their want of mental qualifications. Necessarily, when the Board of Guardians was dismissed, the Union was involved in the most extraordinary difficulties; there was sometimes a sequestration of the house; the house was taken; the rate could not be collected; disease broke out; the house was dilapidated, and money was not forthcoming to supply at once those deficiencies which required immediate relief, and for the provision of which the Vice-Guardians had been appointed. Sometimes public opinion set against them, because, impatient as they were to remedy the evils which weighed so heavily upon the community, if they did not see a remedy at once applied, and the cure effected, they ascribed the fault to the Vice-Guardians. Generally the Vice-Guardians deserved great credit for having extricated some of the Unions from financial difficulties, and coped so successfully with the delusion of the people, that they ought and must be supported by the rate.

8528. Do you think that that idea is gradually wearing away under the experience of the present working of the law?

It is wearing away; but I am sorry to say that the overwhelming calamity to which I have alluded, inoculated the people with another idea extremely prejudicial to their future welfare, namely, that they are under a superstitious impression that there is a curse attached to the land, and in a great many instances there was no possibility to spur them to do any thing; they have never avowed

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it publicly, for fear of admonition from the clergy. They avowed it privately and confidentially, and I fear that they are still under that impression.

8529. A curse upon the whole land of Ireland?

Yes; that there is a curse upon the land, and that whatever thing they do, it will be of no avail their doing it. To show that the people are not to be blamed to such an extraordinary extent as they usually are, as far as their character for apathy and improvidence goes, I may state that within my own memory, I never saw anything to be compared to the extraordinary self-denial to which some of them subjected themselves in order to save money either for emigration or for buying seed. I saw men in Mayo, who used to join the public works, in winter 1847, on donkeys, through mere exhaustion, bearing the marks of extraordinary privation and destitution upon their poor haggard emaciated bodies, and then in two or three months afterwards, when the market opened for oats or potatoes, disbursing 10*l.* 15*l.* or 20*l.* for the purchase of seed.

8530. Do you think that feeling to which you have alluded, of there being a curse upon the land, will give way whenever successful efforts are made in raising new crops?

I have no doubt, if only successful crops should be raised, that this feeling will give away.

8531. Have you perceived that feeling to extend itself to the better order of farmers?

Yes.

8532. Did it appear to you that it had a relation to themselves in connexion with the land, or that they thought that there was a curse absolutely and positively upon the land itself?

It was both ways; and therefore those who could, emigrated; those who could not, showed themselves careless of holding the land, to which they stuck with such extraordinary pertinacity in better years.

8533. In their view, will the curse continue to attach to the land in the event of their quitting it, and its becoming occupied by other persons?

What they themselves said is, that it was a curse attached to the country, and that they were cursed themselves.

8534. So that they did not confine the idea of the curse existing to the case of the potatoes, which was the crop that failed, but considered it as applicable to everything?

As applicable to everything.

8535. Even in spite of the success of other crops?

Yes; when some of the green crops, which looked prosperously, had been pointed to them as demonstrating the error of their understanding, their answer to me has been, "You have not yet gathered it," or words to that effect.

8536. That impression, of course, has tended to paralyse their energies?

It has paralysed their energies to a great extent, and produced an effect similar to that which despondency or apathy would produce.

8537. Do you find that feeling prevailing much more in some districts than in others?

I speak of that feeling particularly in the 30 Unions with which I was particularly connected.

8538. In the distressed Unions?

Yes, in the distressed Unions.

8539. In the distressed Unions equally in the West and in the South?

In the North, South and West.

8540. Where that feeling prevailed, did you observe any sensible diminution of the influence of the priesthood over the people?

Yes, for when that feeling existed, there existed also great misery, which affected

affected both priests and the people, depressed them morally, and slackened the ties of common and usual influences.

8541. Do the priesthood generally endeavour to use their influence to remove that impression from the minds of the people?

They do their utmost, but I have seen their faith not a little shaken by the appalling circumstances by which they are surrounded, and the extraordinary misery to which they themselves are subject. In some instances, where priests were confined with fever, I found in their cabins nothing available beyond stir-about for their own sustenance; there was no tea, no sugar, no provision whatever; in some of their huts, the wind blew, the snow came in, and the rain dripped.

8542. And they were undergoing great distress?

Distress as great as that suffered by any of the poor people; there was no difference between them.

8543. How long is it since you have last seen that part of the country?

I left the most distressed districts in June 1847, and Ireland in September last.

8544. You stated that you thought that the elected Guardians were very much acted upon by influences from without; have you, in your experience, ever had reason to believe that that external influence operated upon the Vice-Guardians?

No, never; because they have been unconnected with the people; besides, they have earnestly staked their honour on the carrying out of the provisions of the law.

8545. Do you think that in general the conduct of the Vice-Guardians was not only proper in itself, but of a kind to obtain the confidence of the locality in which they were placed?

There is no doubt of it; but it ought to be always borne in mind, that they acted in a most extraordinary and difficult capacity; they have been placed in a position in which the regular constitutional Boards of Guardians could not go on any longer.

8546. But you think that the people in general acknowledged the necessity of the regulations introduced by the Vice-Guardians?

I have some doubts upon my mind about that; they have not acknowledged the doings, the resolutions, and the actions of the Vice-Guardians, because the law, as administered under the Vice-Guardians, was neither lenient towards the rate-payers, nor towards the recipients who indiscriminately participated in the out-door relief; hence, enforcing the collection of the rate on one side, and, on the other, keeping within legal bounds the numbers of the out-door relief lists, they had been very far from becoming popular.

8547. When the elected Guardians were performing their duty in a manner which you think was not satisfactory, was there a feeling of dissatisfaction on the part of the rate-payers generally with their proceedings?

Certainly; there was a general dissatisfaction on the part of the rate-payers, and there was dissatisfaction always amongst the poor themselves, because the causes which led to the dismissal of the Boards have been, either that they, the poor, had not been well provided for, or that the number on the out-door relief exceeded the proper number which should be on the list of the out-door relief, or, lastly, that the rate had not been collected. The Vice-Guardians then, being obliged to collect the rate, and to strike off a number upon the out-door relief, attracted a general outcry against their proceedings.

8548. In fact, in all those cases the Vice-Guardians came in under very great disadvantages?

Most extraordinary.

8549. Do you think that their better mode of management is appreciated by the rate-payers generally in those Unions?

I think that was the opinion in the Kanturk Union. In the Tuam Union similar impressions had been entertained, for I saw some members of that Board

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who, from the knowledge they possessed of the efficiency of the Vice-Guardians in other Unions, came to implore the Poor Law Commissioners that they might be dissolved, on account of their inability to struggle any longer with the difficulties of the Union.

8550. Have you heard of any case in which there was an anxiety on the part of the rate-payers to put an end to the administration of the Vice-Guardians, and to return to the system of the elected Guardians?
I never heard of such an attempt; it might have been made without my knowledge, and most likely has been made.

8551. Had you an opportunity of observing the conduct of the Relieving Officers in any of the districts which you visited?
No.

8552. Then you cannot say whether they discharged their duties vigilantly and faithfully?
No.

8553. In the Papers before the Committee in reference to the 21 most distressed Unions, it is stated on the face of the accounts, that in aid of the rates of those Unions, which rates amounted to 199,000*l.*, there was a further sum of 237,230*l.* advanced by the British Association or by the Government; are you able to tell the Committee how much of that sum was advanced by the British Association?
Yes; I can give the Committee the exact sum of money from October 1847 to September 1848; that is, from harvest to harvest; thus, in aid of the collected rate, the British Association advanced 143,518*l.* sterling.

8554. To what Unions were those advances made?
I can furnish you with a specification of them.

8555. In addition to that sum, were you not, at the same time, making large payments on account of the support of poor children?
Yes; that item took 92,968*l.*; there was also a sum of 12,900*l.*, which the Committee of the Association transmitted direct to the Poor Law Commissioners on closing their operations, which remittance, with the two first advances, makes the total of the assistance afforded by the Association, amounting to 249,387*l.*

8556. Contemporaneously with this, have you reason to know that very liberal assistance was likewise given by the Society of Friends?
Yes, there was; not by direct grants, but through agricultural encouragements.

8557. Still, was not that which they invested for agricultural purposes applied in the cultivation of the land within the distressed districts, and did it not, in proportion as it showed itself in wages, tend to relieve the distress?
No doubt.

8558. Can you state what amount was so employed?
I am under the impression that the whole sum which the Society of Friends had at their disposal in October 1847 amounted to about 45,000*l.*

8559. In addition to the sums which you have stated, namely, that administered through the Poor Law Commission, and that which was benevolently expended for the support of the children, were there not other heads of expenditure likewise during that year by the British Association?
Yes, some very trifling grants.

8560. You will be able to give the Committee an account, showing the particular Unions to which relief was given?
Yes.

RETURN of GRANTS made to various UNIONS in *Ireland*, from October 1847 to October 1848, inclusive.

NAME OF UNION.	Total Amount of Grants for the Relief of General Distress.	Total Amount of Grants for Rationing the Children attending Schools.	Amount of Grants for Clothing the Children attending Schools.	Total Amount of Grants to each Union.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Ballina	16,475 – –	7,420 – –	700 – –	24,595 – –
Belmullet	6,800 – –	1,950 – –	95 4 11½	8,845 4 11½
Ballinrobe	17,665 – –	2,560 – –	639 14 7½	20,864 14 7½
Ballyshannon	50 – –	3,350 – –	243 16 4	3,643 16 4
Bantry	3,150 – –	5,769 10 –	619 19 1	9,539 9 1
Boyle	– – –	1,450 – –	417 6 2	1,867 6 2
Cahirciveen	2,309 7 2	1,422 – –	260 8 4½	3,991 15 6½
Carrick-on-Shannon	6,334 – –	1,900 – –	732 4 7	8,966 4 7
Castlebar	13,895 – –	2,250 – –	400 – –	16,545 – –
Castlerea	3,890 14 6	4,300 – –	498 9 3	8,689 3 9
Clifden	9,107 8 1	2,600 – –	373 – 3	12,080 8 4
Donegal	– – –	2,650 – –	239 – 4	2,889 – 4
Galway	14,266 16 10	3,242 14 7	526 5 2	18,035 16 7
Glenties	2,157 2 10	2,400 – –	425 16 6½	4,982 19 4½
Kenmare	4,096 – –	2,950 – –	634 16 –	7,680 16 –
Kilrush	2,630 – –	1,500 – –	200 – –	4,330 – –
Listowel	60 – –	2,400 – –	252 12 3½	2,712 12 3½
Manorhamilton	– – –	1,050 – –	– – –	1,050 – –
Milford	– – –	1,000 – –	300 – –	1,300 – –
Mohill	4,375 – –	148 13 –	284 13 10½	4,808 6 10½
Roscommon	2,500 – –	750 – –	450 3 8½	3,700 3 8½
Scariff	6,980 – –	– – –	– – –	6,980 – –
Skibbereen	– – –	11,742 10 –	1,092 18 8½	12,835 8 8½
Sligo	860 – –	4,284 – –	739 3 5	5,883 3 5
Swineford	75 – –	4,213 16 6	400 – –	4,688 16 6
Tralee	– – –	1,100 – –	261 15 3	1,361 15 3
Dingle	1,800 – –	1,092 – –	– – –	2,892 – –
Tuam	5,425 – –	1,450 – –	330 11 9	7,205 11 9
Westport	14,017 – –	3,420 – –	718 3 7	18,155 3 7
Ballinasloe and Loughrea	– – –	320 – –	– – –	320 – –
Ladies' Island School Society	– – –	200 – –	147 5 10½	347 5 10½
Athlone	580 – –	– – –	30 – –	610 – –
Ennistymon	1,015 – –	– – –	15 – –	1,030 – –
Gort	1,520 6 6	– – –	– – –	1,520 6 6
Nenagh	500 – –	– – –	– – –	500 – –
New Ross	555 – –	– – –	– – –	555 – –
Miscellaneous Grants	430 – –	– – –	55 – –	485 – –
TOTAL £.	143,518 15 11	80,885 4 1	12,083 10 1½	236,487 10 1½
Remittance to the Poor Law Commissioners on closing the operations of the British Relief Association				12,900 – –
TOTAL £.				249,387 10 1½

8561. You have stated the singular and melancholy state of depression which exists in those Western Unions; now, acquainted as you are with many countries, which you have visited under a variety of different circumstances, have you ever seen a more melancholy state of depression than that which you witnessed in those Western Unions?

I am very sorry to say, that having in my own perambulations around the world had occasion to see civilized communities under most of the latitudes and longitudes, including the aboriginal races in North and South America, the South Sea Islands, in New Zealand and Australia, I have not found any where else men subject to misery of such an aggravated character as the Irish peasantry of the Western Unions were.

8562. Do you apply that observation to the state of the Irish peasantry previously to the late calamity, or only since?

First, I do believe that from what I found of their habitations, and their mode

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of life previous to the calamity, I may venture to say, without fear of contradiction, that they were on the lowest standard of comforts.

8563. Would you apply that to the Eastern and the Northern parts of Ireland?
Partly; but I refer to the Western Unions particularly.

8564. Would you apply it to the more improved parts of the South?
No.

8565. You restrict it generally to the people in those distressed Unions?
Yes.

8566. In other parts of Ireland, would you consider them upon the same level, as to their social condition, as the labouring population of other countries?
No.

8567. Though you place those of the West very much below, you would not consider the peasantry in other parts of Ireland upon an equality with the peasantry in other parts of the world?
No.

8568. Do you consider them below the peasantry of most European states?
I consider the peasantry in Ireland very much below, in their domestic comfort, any other peasantry in Europe.

8569. Anterior to the famine?
Anterior to the famine.

8570. Including Russia?
Including Russia; because the Russian peasantry have a higher standard of food, rye-bread, and they are much more comfortable, both as regards their clothing and habitations.

8571. Was this extreme distress shown by extraordinary mortality within your own powers of observation, as well as according to the reports of the other gentlemen, who, like yourself, assisted in administering the great relief that was given?
The question of mortality is of a very difficult solution, as no record had been kept in former years of the rate of mortality existing in the parishes, and no records of the mortality had been kept during the calamity. Still the painful and frequent occurrence of corpses lying in the streets of some towns and on the great roads, stamps that distress with a severity far exceeding that which accompanied and resulted from the great famine in Tuscany in 1346, 1347, 1349, as narrated by Sismondi.

8572. Referring to the state in which you reported Westport in 1847 to be, was there not a difficulty with respect to the supply of coffins, as proportioned to the number of the dead?
No doubt it was so, and in other districts likewise the same difficulty was felt, because of the suddenness of the demand, for which neither the Workhouses nor carpenters had been prepared.

8573. Were the cases of the exposure of the bodies of the dead in the highways and in the streets unusual?
It was very usual, as was also the absence of the habitual sensation which such sight commonly creates amongst the inhabitants, and for which the frequency of such melancholy occurrences may partly account.

8574. Was this contemporaneously with the system of Public Works, or contemporaneously with the system of General Burgoyne's relief?
It was during the transition from the one to the other. This gap which was thus created was, nevertheless, amply filled by donations and grants of the British Relief Association.

8575. The gap between the Public Works and General Burgoyne's relief?
Yes.

8576. Did those appalling phenomena, which you have described, extend to the county of Donegal as well as to the Western districts, or were the symptoms of evil mitigated in that county, as compared with the others?

In

In the county of Donegal the aggravated symptoms were confined to the Glenties Union, though at the first moment there was most extraordinary distress in the town of Donegal, where the people congregated in order to get some soup, or to get a passage out in a vessel from Ireland.

8577. Were those aggravated symptoms of distress manifested in the same degree in the neighbouring Unions of Letterkenny and Dunfanaghy, as well as in Glenties?

No.

8578. There was a better state of things in those two Unions?

Yes.

8579. As far as the face of nature is concerned, are the natural advantages of Dunfanaghy in any material respect greater than those of Glenties?

I think at Dunfanaghy and Letterkenny they have a coast abounding with kelp, which was used by the people in the manufacture of iodine, and for which they got remunerating prices. In the westerly and southerly parts of Glenties, the kelp is less accessible to simple means of its extraction, and hence the difference.

8580. Have you been able to trace the most signal instances of distress to those districts along the Western coast, where, by the facilities of procuring sea manure, there had been great facilities for growing potatoes, and consequently a great augmentation of the population?

I am unable to answer satisfactorily that question. There is no doubt that it would seem that on account of the facility in getting manure, the population would be aggregated more thickly there; but Dunfanaghy, which had great access to kelp and to manure, had not experienced the evils.

8581. Take some of those Western coasts, where the manure which is resorted to is not the sea-weed, which may, when obtained, afford a resource to the people by yielding an article which can be sold, but where it is sea sand and coral sand, incapable of being applied to any purpose but that of agricultural manure; is the population greater there, and was the distress more felt?

The distress was certainly more felt.

8582. You have stated that the cases of mortality which grieved you were mainly during the period of transition from the system of Public Works to the full introduction of the Relief system; were they confined to those cases, or did you see cases of mortality during the time of the Public Works, and also during the time of the Relief?

I saw the mortality on all occasions; but it was more aggravated at that time, notwithstanding the bounty of the Association, which came in to replace what the Government had not as yet been able to administer: for the more protracted the distress, the more the consequences told upon the constitutions of the people, and the mortality was increased, in spite of the aid and assistance of the Association; and notwithstanding the liberal rations which the Government accorded under Sir John Burgoyne's system of relief. What contributed likewise to engender disease, and thus to increase mortality, was the substitution of the cereal food for that of potatoes, with which the people had not been acquainted. In using potatoes, they had been accustomed to use them freely in large quantities; in using a more concentrated food in corresponding quantities, to satisfy the cravings of their distended abdomen, they brought upon them inflammatory diseases of the stomach, and thus died, as much by the abundance of the new food, as they had been dying by the want of the other.

8583. Were you able to trace much of the dysentery and other diseases which then prevailed to the exposure to which the people were subject at that inclement season, by reason of the exclusive nature of the relief under the Public Works Act?

No; perhaps a great deal might have been traced to it; but I believe that the people had been well acclimated to the inclemency of the weather.

8584. You have stated an instance in which some poor persons were in such a state of feebleness that they were obliged to go to the public works upon donkeys. Were there not upon the Public Works at that time, necessarily and inevitably, the

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old, the infirm, and the very young, and in some instances, before your interposition, women?
Yes.

8585. Although able-bodied men might have been acclimated and seasoned to the exposure, even in winter, have you any doubt that that exposure, on the part of the other classes just described, must have tended to produce disease, and to extend the calamity that prevailed?
There is no doubt but that the effect of the weather at that season might have been a concomitant to the mortality of some of the people.

8586. In the list of the 21 most distressed Unions, the amount which was advanced by the Government and by the British Association, independently of the aid which the British Association gave to the children, and clothing and subsidiary relief, amounted to 237,230*l.*; and the amount of the rate applied during that period amounted to only 199,023*l.*, being less than one-half. Supposing that that district, during that interval of time, had been left exclusively to the relief which the rate itself would have afforded, what, in your judgment, would have been the consequence to the population?
If the population during the overwhelming distress had been left to the resources of the Poor Law, which were never contemplated for such emergency, the Poor Law would have been incompetent to deal with it.

8587. Therefore in that time of famine, in that exceptional case, the Poor Law would not have been an adequate remedy for that exceptional case of famine?
No, never.

8588. Supposing the amount of relief then administered had been reduced to one-half; from what you saw, and from what you knew, must not the mortality in that period have been unexampled?
There is no doubt of it.

8589. It would have amounted to sweeping away a great portion of the population?
No doubt.

8590. Supposing the potato to continue unproductive, what do you apprehend to be the future capacity of that Western country to provide for the maintenance of its population upon cereal food?
It is my firm opinion that that country could never have produced sufficient food of cereals to feed the population which is now existing upon it; it is too redundant in some parts, and those parts could only supply sufficient food by such an esculent as potatoes, or perhaps by such an extraordinarily productive article as Indian corn, if the climate would allow it to be planted there.

8591. In describing those special parts in which, in your judgment, the proportion between the population and the means of raising food is such as to make it more than doubtful whether a potato-bred population could be supported upon cereal food, do you apply your observation to certain localities, or to the whole of the district?
I would say, as applied generally to the distressed Unions, that is, if you maintain the relation in which the population actually stands, to the land which they possess and occupy, you could not raise upon that land in cereals sufficient food to provide for that population.

8592. For the conversion of land which has been used agriculturally, as you have seen Irish land used, from the growth of potatoes and the con-acre system in a country producing cereal food, must there not necessarily be an improved system of agriculture, a better application of manures, and the keeping a greater quantity of stock from which the manure would be derived to a considerable extent?
There is no doubt that this overwhelming calamity, which weighs and will weigh heavily, not only upon those particular localities, but upon the empire at large, will be a turning point in the history of Ireland, and will bring about an extraordinary course of transition to a better sort of cultivation, which will enable the people to provide themselves with the means of existence by other more systematic and more civilized art of industry and cultivation than that which they have hitherto used.

8593. In

8593. In those special localities which you have described as being now at present overburdened with population, as compared with their power of subsistence upon cereal food, and where you have also stated that an entire change to a system of improved agriculture is necessary, do you consider that it will be possible to attain that improved agriculture and that augmentation of cereal food, so long as the present minute subdivision of holdings and redundancy of population continues within those particular districts?

No, it is impossible to attain the one without giving a death-blow to the other. First, they must do away with the small holdings and have larger farms, because on small holdings that improved agriculture, or raising cereal crops, is impossible.

8594. Has not that effect been produced at the present time to a considerable extent, namely, the putting an end to the subdivision into small holdings?

Yes, in many places already improvement is to be met with; many have given up their lands, and small holdings are now included in large farms, and a new state of things appears. On Lord Lucan's property, Lord Lorton's, Sir Gore Booth and others, it is done. Lord Lucan, I believe, has now under cultivation more than 2,000 acres.

8595. Could that have been done if the lands had continued in their former minute state of subdivision, and overburdened with an Irish cottier population?

Never.

8596. We have spoken of the possible consequences if the potato cultivation should be abandoned, by the continued unproductiveness of the root; what do you conceive would be the consequence if it pleased Providence to restore the potato root in the West of Ireland, and to give the people confidence in its renewed fertility?

If those who are immediately interested in the prosperity of Ireland were not to interfere, supposing the potato crop should again succeed, and the people were allowed to go on without any interference next year, the same calamity might come again upon the country.

8597. Supposing those periods of calamity to revert in certain cycles, and assuming, for the sake of argument, that there were nine years of successful potato cultivation, and then two or three years of potato failure, should you anticipate from that state of things anything more than a perpetuation of the present cause of suffering in that country?

During the interval of these cycles, no doubt, the people could keep themselves alive; but this lowest standard of human food which they would use would only perpetuate all the moral and physical evils, with this difference, that each successive calamity would become more and more of an aggravated character.

8598. Therefore, if the restoration of the potato crop had the effect of restoring all the consequences which had previously resulted from potato cultivation, and of giving a new impulse to the population again, at every period of successive return of failure, the calamity would be more aggravated?

There is no doubt of it.

8599. You have described the condition of the Irish peasantry, prior to the occurrence of the famine, as inferior to that of any other peasantry in Europe, in respect of food, habitation and clothing; to what cause or causes do you attribute that state of things?

It is an extremely difficult thing to ascribe it to one cause; certainly one cannot trace it to the race of people, because I saw Irishmen in the United States, in Canada, and in Australia living as well as the Anglo-Saxons, acquiring their grumbling habits, and thus improving continually their condition. I saw many of those people who never tasted animal food in Ireland coming to Australia, and becoming fastidious about the quality of the meat and tea which was served to them; so that the low condition in which they are to be observed in Ireland is not to be attributed to the inherent character of the race. I do not believe that it is owing to religion, because they are professing the same religion in the country where they go to settle. This difference may, perhaps, be more successfully traced to the consequences of the transplantation from a narrow and

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confined moral and physical sphere of action, to a larger space, with more freedom and more cheerful prospects of life, and of which they have none at home. Every cottage of the peasantry of Ireland will hold out causes to emigrate, which are combined with either the reminiscence of a calamity which he or his father experienced, or the losses which he sustained in his farming operations, or in his relations who emigrated. Then he sees that everybody, from the lord of the manor down to his fellow-sufferer, is eager to emigrate, and that everybody who has the means of doing it leaves Ireland with joy, for countries more blessed than his native land. This damps his spirits, and is discouraging in his attempts to ameliorate his position, when he looks upon himself as condemned to remain. At times his situation is truly untenable. The Sunday, which every where is a day of repose and consolation, is to him a day of mortification and exasperation: his chapel he finds half ruined, and at times so full, that he is obliged to kneel down outside of it, notwithstanding the mud, rain or snow; while opposite he sees a church well built of another persuasion, and at times quite empty; he finds the priest poor and soured, sharing in his feelings of discontent and despondency. Then he hears of evictions from one part, high rent from another; he finds competitors for his land, the possession of which is a question of life and death to him. Then occasional failures of crops, and those endless intimidations and mysterious threatenings and nocturnal messages, which, all combined together, make of him, morally and physically, the most unhappy man on the earth. If once he gets from his own country, his natural faculties, which are of the most expansive kind, have a better and fuller play in every department of industry; his religion and his priest, who, being paid by the State, is content, becomes a source of consolation to him. He is more happy; you see it in his eyes and in his face, and in the comforts with which he has provided himself. You see nothing of the extraordinary cunning and hypocrisy with which he arms himself in Ireland, in self-defence, against the many evils by which he is surrounded. There he is safe, and therefore he shows with pride the money which he earned, and the property which he has acquired, and far from burying it, making himself appear poorer than he actually is, he gives free and open scope to his capital.

8600. While holding the opinion which you have just expressed, do not you at the same time think there is a great difference in the tendencies and aptitudes of different races?

Yes, the human races really differ in their tendencies and aptitudes as much as the species of terriers do from that of greyhound. Such characteristic and wide differences cannot be applied to the Irish and Anglo-Saxons, either in the United States and Canada or Australia; they would suit with more correctness to illustrate the distinctness of the French race in North America, and which keeps itself aloof, and shows the particular physiological differences which, I believe, no institution, no government and no climate can obliterate.

8601. When you state that those differences of race exist, and illustrate them in the way you have done, you do not mean to suggest that moral and social influences may not act upon each of those distinct races, so that whilst the distinction may still to a great extent be preserved, the moral and social qualities may still be improved?

There is no doubt that the original characteristic of any race may be modified by external circumstances, but I doubt whether it can be changed.

8602. But you think the Irishman in the new world very much modifies his character, while a French inhabitant of Canada and Louisiana does not?

Yes, the Irishman improves in two or three years by emigrating to Australia; he acquires habits of industry; he learns to rely upon himself more than he does here; he has an openness in his character, and shows all that he can do, while here he does not show it. In two or three years he makes himself entirely independent; while Frenchmen, as may be seen, particularly in Louisiana, although living under the same government as the Anglo-Saxons do, have not advanced one single inch beyond what their ancestors were originally in emigrating under Louis XV.

8603. But you would not say they were so distinct a population in Louisiana as they are in Canada?

I think they are as distinct in Louisiana as they are in Canada.

8604. When

8604. When you say "here," with regard to Irishmen, you mean in Ireland, not in Great Britain?
In Ireland.

8605. Do not the same appearances of improvement manifest themselves to a certain extent in England in the case of the Irish who come over, as they do in foreign countries?
Yes, they do.

8606. You are aware that the Northern and Southern parts of Ireland are to a great extent inhabited by different races?
Yes.

8607. And you do not know any difference in the development which you have described of the energies of the Irish people, between those who have emigrated from the North and those who have emigrated from the Southern parts of Ireland?
They are merged; it was a very great and interesting point of inquiry to me to ask those persons whose industry and well-being attracted my attention, from which part of Ireland they came; in the development of their industry they blended together so much that it was impossible to see any marked difference between the Northern emigrants and the Southern emigrants, except perhaps in the accent of the English spoken.

8608. You apply your observations equally to emigrants from all parts of Ireland?
From all parts of Ireland.

8609. In speaking of those Irish emigrants, you speak of those whom you have seen in a mixed population, scattered among inhabitants who have emigrated from other parts of the United Kingdom?
Yes; I never saw a purely Irish colony.

8610. Do you know any instance of a purely Irish colony; that is, a colony entirely settled by an Irish population, in the same manner as Canada and Louisiana were entirely settled by a French population?
No, I do not.

8611. Are there not parts of the United States where the Irish so far preponderate over the others that they might almost be considered an Irish colony?
Perhaps Maryland or Baltimore; but in Maryland there is no difference whatever to be seen between those who are not Irish.

8612. Have you observed the state of the Irishmen in the second generation who have settled in a colony; are they distinguishable from the ordinary Anglo-Saxons?
No.

8613. You have stated gratifying instances of the success of the Irish emigrants in the colonies; are the Committee to conclude from thence, that in your judgment there is no indisposition on the part of the colonists themselves to receive Irish emigrants; first applying the question to Australia?
No; upon that point I am only stating what I have heard. In some parts, where religious questions have been brought to bear upon the industrial development of colonial resources, the people would like better to have Protestant emigrants.

8614. Is not that a feeling which is manifested only where there is a colony of either Northern Irish or Scotch Presbyterians?
Yes; who brought old feuds from Ireland, and propagated them through religious influences.

8615. But in a more natural state of things, you think that that feeling would not exist?
No.

8616. Conversant as you are with the wants of Australia, is not the want mainly at the present moment of agricultural and pastoral labour?
During the whole of the time since I visited Australia, until the present time, the development of Australia and its resources has hinged upon the population, and has been retarded mainly by the want of a labouring population.

 8617. A pastoral

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8617. A pastoral population particularly?
A pastoral population.

8618. From the habits of the Irish people, as far as your observation enables you to form a judgment, are not those simple occupations in pastoral life and in agricultural life more peculiarly the habits for which the Irish peasant is well fitted and adapted?
I should take a wider range of the capabilities of the Irish peasant. I should say that he is fit to act under more difficult circumstances than that of pastoral life; I would say that he is adapted for everything; if he only knows and sees his own interest, and understands and sees his way through, he adapts himself to every circumstance in which he is placed.

8619. Are those convictions, which you have so clearly described, of the field of success, the field of hope, and the field of improvement, which is open in our colonies to the industrious and moral Irish emigrant, fully sustained by practical instances which have come to the knowledge of the Irish resident peasantry; do they hear from their friends in the colony, and do they get accounts of their success there?
They do, in most cases, and the monies which they transmit to Ireland speak volumes of their success.

8620. Are you able to state whether, in the Western country, there prevails at the present moment, under the pressure of the present calamity, a great desire for emigration, independently of the desire of escaping from depression and suffering at home?
There is no doubt there always was, and particularly now there is, a feeling, a tendency, and a desire on the part of the people to emigrate, in every class of society; and the Legislature, or the society, should avail itself of the present disposition of the peasantry for emigration, and furnish them with some means to facilitate the attainment of that object.

8621. Would not emigration be one of the most important and useful remedies, with a view to enable those poor districts of Ireland, which you have described as being overburdened with people, to pass from the condition of a potato-fed to that of a cereal-fed people?
It would be one, but not the most material one; the greatest improvement would be to have employers. I believe that the present Bill in the House of Commons, the Encumbered Estates Bill, will have the effect of transferring the land from those who cannot discharge the duty of landlord to others who can; by which the redundant labour of the country will be absorbed, the productiveness of the land raised, as also that of the condition of the classes themselves.

8622. But, without meaning to suggest for a moment that any one remedy could be a panacea for the present discordant state of society in Ireland, are there not districts which have come within your observation in which you would consider that some assistance to the people who are in excess, as compared with the means of sustenance, to quit the country where they are in excess, is amongst the remedies which may be advantageously resorted to?
Yes; emigration is one of the remedies, but, under present circumstances, is almost impossible, because, should you even have sufficient money to emigrate a certain number of people from Ireland, no colony would like to receive them, from rumours of cholera and infectious disease which are said to prevail in Ireland.

8623. In the present state of Ireland, has there not been manifested, within your observation, a disposition on the part of some of the farming class to emigrate, as well as on the part of the labourers?
On the part of all classes; finding themselves in the most difficult and complicated positions, they wanted, by escaping from the country, to rid themselves of those extraordinary difficulties with which they were unable to cope.

8624. Do you conceive that the emigration of a class of persons, carrying away a few hundred pounds in their pocket, is to be compared, in its practical effect upon the present social state of Ireland, with the emigration of any excess of the labouring classes, provided they are in sound health, provided they are adequately taken care of on their passage, and provided they have such a fund

fund in their pockets on arrival in the colony as will be sufficient to carry them to those parts where their labour is wanting?

I do not put such extraordinary stress upon the consequences which the emigration of the better farmers from Ireland can produce, because if the land passes from those who are involved, whose estates are burdened, and who thus are manacled in discharging the proper duties of a landlord, to those of capital, the labour of the labouring classes will be absorbed on large farms more profitably, just as in Roxburghshire, in Scotland, where, generally, the small tenants disappeared, and large farmers have been formed.

8625. That assumes that the capital which may be withdrawn by the small farmer who emigrates, will be more than replaced by the new tenant who acquires possession of the land?

I do believe it will be quite replaced.

8626. Do you consider that, in the present state of Ireland, there is very much chance of English capitalists or Scotch capitalists fixing themselves in that country with a view to the profitable investment of their funds, and their own permanent settlement there?

No doubt there is; and I could quote many instances where traders and shopkeepers from London have manifested to me a desire to be informed about the progress of Irish business in the South and North-west, in order that they may be quite alive to what is going on there, and be quite ready to go and settle in Ireland, and acquire and cultivate the land there.

8627. Has that been recently?

Only a few days ago, a trader told me that he is conscious that a time is at hand when such a premium upon English capital will be offered by the sale of lands in Ireland, that it will be worth the while of every one to emigrate, and that he is quite ready and quite prepared to emigrate, and to invest his money in the purchase of land, which here in England he cannot get without paying very dear for it.

8628. Have you known any instances in which such settlements have already taken place?

I have.

8629. Are you speaking of one application, or more than one?

I am speaking of more than one; there is a remarkable instance of it in the Omagh Union and Omagh Electoral Division, where a merchant of capital from Dublin bought an estate, and having thinned the redundant population, by enabling a part to emigrate, and having absorbed the labour of the remainder, was the means of changing entirely the complexion of the Electoral Division. There is another instance of a trader from Croydon, who went to Donegal, and purchased an estate which had been in the market in previous years for 10,000 *l.*, and which was sold to him for 7,000*l.*; he settled on it; and I hear he gives to his friends in Croydon a very gratifying account of his investment.

8630. Have there been any instances of Scotch tenants settling in the county of Mayo, upon the property of Sir Richard O'Donnell?

I do not know of Scotch tenants, as regards the property of Sir Richard O'Donnell, but I know some tenants in Connemara who have settled on the property of Mr. Graham, and are doing perfectly well.

8631. New settlers?

Yes, Scotch.—(I understood the question to have been whether they had been Scotch.)

8632. Are there any circumstances in the state of the Western districts which you think indispose British capitalists from investing there, and becoming, in the manner you have described, an auxiliary and effective means of improving the condition of the labourer?

Under present circumstances, as the law stands, there are great obstacles; people are only waiting for the Government to bring in some measure, just like the Bill which is now in the House of Commons, whereby the purchase titles in the first place will be secured, the transfer of the property simplified, less costly, and a maximum of rate fixed.

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8633. Are you aware whether any of the tenant-farmers who have emigrated have obtained any sum of money to assist them in emigration by the sale of the good-will of the farms which they have left?

In some parts, I heard they obtained money, but it is through their extraordinary economy and parsimonious living, and perhaps from assistance obtained from their old friends in the colonies, that they were enabled to emigrate.

8634. Have the greater number of the class of which you speak, the better kind of farmers, who have emigrated, quitted and given up their farms which they held, without receiving anything for the good-will?

I believe more or less; I am inclined to believe that monies which came from the different colonies within this last year have been most instrumental in enabling those whom I should call good substantial farmers to emigrate.

8635. And that they, in point of fact, quitted their farms, without receiving any remuneration for so doing, in many instances?

In many instances, I believe, they have been extremely glad to leave them, under the impression of some superstitious feelings.

8636. Have not many of those who have come within your knowledge, not only gone without receiving any remuneration for their good-will, but gone away with the money in their pockets which ought to have paid their rent and other engagements?

No doubt, many such instances may have occurred.

8637. You have spoken of the transfer of land from insolvent proprietors to capitalists, as a measure calculated to improve the condition of all classes in Ireland; are there any other measures which you can suggest to the Committee, as being, in your opinion, likely to have the same beneficial tendency?

I think that measure should be combined with another, to enable Unions to cope with the system of emigration, where such an emigration is absolutely necessary. Certainly nothing can be done without an assistance from Government—I mean from the Imperial Exchequer; but that assistance might be made a powerful instrument of stimulating the self-exertion of parties interested in emigration. The emigrant himself, or his relations in the colonies, should be appealed to in the first instance for contributions towards the expense; another part might be furnished by the Union as a party interested; and finally, a complement by the Imperial Government. There is a disposition, which I am sorry to see is gaining ground in this country amongst the public, and perhaps in Parliament, to consider the distress which now exists in Ireland as an ordinary case, traced to local mismanagement, and to the reluctance of the proprietary to cope with it. Far from this being an ordinary case, it is an extraordinary one, an unparalleled case, and an exceptional case; it is not a case within the scope of local power to cope with it. Parliament and the public, both by grants and private subscriptions, in 1846 and 1847, showed that the calamity which has befallen Ireland is an Imperial calamity. Now, the difficulties and distress of 1848 and 1849 are merely consequences, a continuation of the melancholy events of 1846; as such, they ought to be dealt with by public opinion and Parliament; otherwise the evils will accumulate, and will become an inveterate sore, and a disgrace to a civilized country.

8638. Do you consider that any measures, however right they may be in themselves, and however they may be part of our christian duty, merely to meet the immediate pressure of the case, and to preserve life and relieve suffering, will be adequate to meet the case of Ireland in a national point of view, unless the evils of the country itself, and the causes of pauperism, be looked to with a view to a possible remedy, as well as the mere relief of distress?

The very first thing which it is the duty of the public to look to, is, that the immediate distress should be relieved, and that people in the British empire, so long as that empire possesses any means, should not be allowed to die from starvation; but the next point is, that while large sacrifices are made by the Imperial Exchequer and by the public at large, to come forward, and to put a stop to the mortality arising from that distress, your measures should go to the root of the evils from which this extraordinary distress arose.

8639. As a mere question of economy, may it not be doubted whether a large measure

measure applied to prevent the evil would not be financially better economy than wasting funds upon the mere support of the people?

I fear that you cannot separate the purely abstract economical question from the question of immediate relief. You cannot reason in an abstract way when you see men dying in the streets.

8640. The question assumes one of two courses to be taken; it supposes the mere support of human life to be resorted to permanently, and relied upon without taking steps for the improvement of the condition of the people, and for the removal of the causes which have led to their pauperism; and the question is, whether that course may not be, even in the matter of pounds, shillings and pence, worse economy than combining with it a remedy of a more practical and enlarged kind?

Any measure of immediate relief which would not combine a set of other measures for a radical cure, would only postpone the great solution of the great question to another time.

8641. And aggravating the evil?

And aggravating the evil tenfold.

8642. Are you of opinion that it would be possible to get over the existing state of things without giving some direct and immediate relief?

It is impossible; the first thing one has to do is to keep soul and body together of the starving: there is justice and humanity concerned in it; and after having done that, what it is necessary to do is to resort to regenerative measures.

8643. For instance, assuming a case in which emigration would be a fitting remedy, and supposing that emigration would cost 3*l.* a head, and that the support of that pauper at home for one year would cost 5*l.*, as a matter merely of economy, it is hardly necessary to put the question, which of the two would be most economical, but which of the two would be best for the social condition of Ireland from whence the emigrant was taken?

The two cases cannot be decided upon without first looking into all the bearings which this question involves, as, for instance, to the colonies to which the mass of the population would be transported.

8644. As an abstract question, assuming that it would be both unwise and unjustifiable, merely for the relief of any part of the European possessions of the Crown, to transport one single emigrant that would be in excess in the colony, and that the colony was not ready to receive; and assuming the adoption of a system of emigration which would be acceptable in the colony, the question is, economically speaking, with reference to pounds, shillings and pence, in the case which has been put, namely, the cost of 3*l.* for emigration, or the cost of 5*l.* for maintenance at home, which of those two courses would be most advantageous for Ireland?

There is no doubt that in those districts where there is a redundant population, emigration would be advisable; but as to those districts where the population is only accidentally suffering from destitution, and oppressively weighing upon the rate payers, because employment is not given,—in those parts, to emigrate the population would be to prejudice the interests of those who may come as new purchasers with capital to develop the resources of the country.

8645. You stated that, in the case which you have just alluded to of a person purchasing an estate, the person purchasing the estate applied part of his capital, as an essential preliminary, to the improvement of the estate, to the emigration of that portion of the people that were really redundant; in that case, was it not for the profit of the individual to effect that object?

It was for his profit and advantage, otherwise he would not have done it; but I think it is impossible to adopt this for a general rule, because there are localities in which to emigrate the people who are suffering and pressing upon the rate-payers now, would be a prejudicial thing to the next occupier, or to the next landlord, who would act on a more enlarged scale with the land.

8646. With reference to a previous answer, in which you have logically deduced from the relative interests of different parties their duty to contribute to the expense of emigration, do not you think that when the landlord is directly

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benefited by emigration, he might be justly called upon to contribute towards the expense?

I stated that there were three parties who ought to be interested in it: the relations of the man himself, or he himself; the Union, or the landlords from whom the emigration is passing; and then the Imperial Exchequer, which should encourage contributions by adding a supplementary assistance to the whole scheme.

8647. With relation to emigration conducted upon that principle, do not you see that there may be some danger in connecting emigration with the Poor Law itself; and that therefore direct taxation upon the landlord for the purpose would, upon the whole, be better than assistance from the rates?

It is not assistance from the rates that I should propose; the rates should have nothing to do with it. But the Board of Guardians would be the best judges as to the persons that ought to be assisted.

8648. Do not you think that if the people of Ireland are as you describe them to be, and as the Committee have every reason to know them to be, very anxious themselves for emigration, if you were to connect emigration with the Poor Law, it would add to their desire to rely upon the Poor Law, rather than upon their own exertions?

I only connect the Poor Law with it so far as the machinery of the Board of Guardians is concerned, because there is no other authority in the Union more thoroughly cognizant of individual cases of the population than that of the Poor Law.

8649. Then you do not contemplate the aid coming from the poor-rate?

No.

8650. You mean that the Board of Guardians should be the judges of the fitness of the applicants to receive assistance for the purpose of emigration, from the landlord, the Government and the Union?

Yes.

8651. Take the case of a farmer emigrant, who wishes to assist his friends to follow him, which is a case of not unfrequent occurrence in Ireland, it has been suggested that if any encouragement were given, probably the public money so given in encouragement would be a mere substitution for the private funds now given; but supposing the assistance were made proportionate, and not substitutionary, would it not have the effect of rather increasing the remittance from abroad than of diminishing it?

That is my impression; and I do not hesitate to say, that if there was a body who would have published and have sent circulars to the chapels in Ireland, and to the different colonies, stating and explaining this system of encouragement contemplated to the efforts of the Irish people and their relations in the colonies, the people at home and abroad would have been spurred and stimulated to greater sacrifices than those they have hitherto done. The 500,000*l.* which has been transmitted from the colonies to Ireland, to enable the people to emigrate, are signs of a disposition which would be greatly enlarged by the encouragement I propose. Besides larger remittances, a moral benefit would have been conferred upon those who are leaving their native shores; they would have left them with a better reminiscence, with some gratitude, and with better feelings towards England, than they are now leaving them, as they owe entirely their salvation to those of distant countries, rather than to anybody living in their own.

8652. Take the case of Australia, with which you are familiar. You are aware that of late years the Australian legislature has felt it its duty to appropriate a very considerable sum out of its revenue, for the purposes of assisting emigration. Now, do you consider that if that colonial fund from Australia were met by home encouragement, it would have the effect of increasing or diminishing the disposition of that colony to contribute towards emigration purposes?

I really think, that, just like private efforts, the efforts of the colony would have been increased.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Major-

Major-General SIR JOHN BURGOYNE, K. C. B., is called in, and examined as follows:

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8653. YOU have served the country in military and civil capacities for many years?
Yes.

8654. For how long?
Since the year 1798; 50 years.

8655. Will you state in what year you went over to Ireland, and in what capacity?
I went over in the year 1831 as Chairman of the Board of Public Works, and remained thre till 1845.

8656. You undertook those functions after the passing of the Act of 1831?
I did.

8657. And you administered your functions in Ireland till the year 1845 under that Act?
Exactly.

8658. On the whole, did you find the provisions of that Act useful for the public service, and calculated to carry into effect the declared intentions of Parliament?
I think they worked admirably, quite up to what was anticipated.

8659. Was not the Board of Public Works in Ireland substituted for many previously existing Boards, whose duties devolved upon you and your colleagues?
Yes, a great many different Boards.

8660. Can you state them?
I do not recollect them, but there were a great many; I think there were as many as 50 or 60 Commissioners that we replaced.

8661. Independently of that, on various occasions did not Parliament cast new and enlarged duties upon you, not originally contemplated upon the construction of your office?
Most of them, I think, were contemplated before, but some of them were not; such as taking up some of the harbours, Dublin and Kingstown Harbour, and the fisheries; those were contemplated at the time, but they were not specified in the Act, because the Commissioners derived their authority for those several services under the express order of the Lord Lieutenant.

8662. Were there not other duties which you were called upon to fulfil; were you not one of the Commissioners of Railway Inquiry with the late Mr. Drummond?
Yes; that was not connected necessarily with the Board of Works.

8663. Individually upon yourself or upon your colleagues were not new duties cast by Parliament repeatedly during the progress of your official life?
Some of them were; that of the railways, for instance; there was no other member of the Board employed upon it but myself.

8664. You were connected with the Shannon Navigation?
Yes, in the same way.

8665. That was not in the slightest degree contemplated at the time of establishing the Board?
Not at all.

8666. You have stated that, upon the whole, that Act, in your judgment, worked beneficially; had you sufficient opportunity, in considering the applications that were made to you, to exercise just discrimination in relation to those objects which you preferred?
Not always; we could take no objects into consideration but what were laid before us, and what were the subjects of applications; we were not allowed to originate any ourselves.

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8667. But in relation to those laid before you, you had full power of discriminating between good and bad?
We had, of rejecting or confirming.

8668. Had you also the power not only of applying the funds at your command, but likewise of calling forth for profitable application very considerable funds from other sources, both from Grand Juries and from private individuals?
Nearly the whole of the funds were derived from other sources, except a small portion supplied by Parliament and by Government in the shape of grants.

8669. The others were the result of private enterprise or of local public enterprise, particularly as connected with the Grand Jury system?
Yes; besides some that were under peculiar circumstances, that gave us more trouble; namely, those that were under special Acts of Parliament for specific objects.

8670. Referring, for example, to the county of Kerry, did not the operation of that Act, as directed by you and your colleagues, bring a very large sum of private contribution, as well as Grand Jury contribution, in aid of the works which you recommended?
It did, particularly in the county of Kerry.

8671. As far as you have had the means of judging, did those works lead to a very considerable development of the resources of the country, abstracting the question from the effects of the present calamity?
Most undoubtedly; they were chiefly for roads and bridges, and they opened countries that previously may be said to have been inaccessible for any profitable occupation, and those opened countries had great capabilities, which made them fertile and useful districts.

8672. Did not they in the same proportion also contribute to peace and good order, and the administration of the law, and the prevention of illicit distillation in some instances, and the conversion of districts that were formerly asylums for crime and criminals into places that were pervious to the Queen's writs?
No doubt of it.

8673. Was this system adopted in certain cases, that, assuming the cost of a work to be 4,000*l.*, a grant was made out of your public fund of 1,000*l.*, upon condition that 1,000*l.* was contributed from purely private sources, and that 2,000*l.* should be taken as a loan by the Grand Jury?
Yes, it was; there were very different cases of the application of the Grant Fund, but it was always in aid of other funds, and chiefly by private contributions.

8674. Therefore, in that case, by the mere application of 1,000*l.* on the part of the State, a work to the value of 4,000*l.* was executed, and 1,000*l.* out of the 3,000*l.* was supplied by private funds?
Precisely; generally, throughout the grants, there was a much larger proportion than that furnished by private individuals.

8675. Taking a general view of those loans, were the repayments, on the whole, in your judgment, satisfactory?
Very; it was going on with perfect regularity when I left the Board; about one-half of the whole, nearly 500,000*l.*, had been repaid, and with a high rate of interest.

8676. On the accounts which have been furnished, in relation to loans and advances, very considerable arrears appear due; were not many of those arrears connected with loans and with works undertaken anterior to the formation of the Board of Works, for which you and your colleagues were in no respect responsible?
Yes; most of them were so, and even those that were deficient on our own loans were chiefly on account of some that were necessarily made by us in continuation of others which had been formerly made, and it was necessary to complete those works; some of those failed, and the principal failures were on those accounts.

8677. Taking your own loans into account, the repayments have been satisfactory?
Very satisfactory.

8678. And the works have been matters of great public benefit?
Of very great public benefit. They were narrowly watched during their execution by our Board, to see that the monies were properly applied.

8679. Have you any reason to believe that those works were not only useful in themselves, but useful, also, both as models of the system upon which public works ought to be carried on, and as improved schools of labour for the parties engaged in them?
They certainly tended to that good.

8680. In the selection of those works, had you any object to consider, except their usefulness to the public at large; was that the primary foundation of your choice?
That was the foundation; I do not know any other motive that we had for selecting them but that, and the adequacy of the security for such as were to be repaid.

8681. Were you afterwards employed in Ireland during the period of the famine?
Yes, in 1847.

8682. In what capacity did you go over to Ireland?
I went as the Chairman of the Relief Commission.

8683. You are aware that anterior to the introduction of the system, which you so ably directed, a system of public works had been in active agency?
Yes.

8684. What do you think is the effect upon the public works of introducing the principle of relief to be given to the workmen, in addition to the simple point which you had first to consider under your former commission, as to the usefulness of the execution of the work?
Where the primary object is the relief, it is generally very likely to fail as a useful work. But all works must tend to relief, of course, when there is any distress.

8685. Looking at the permanent interests of the country, and the permanent interests of the working classes, and at the development of the resources of the country, which of the two systems do you think is most likely to improve the condition of the people; public works, of which the object is usefulness, and of which relief is an incident, or public works, of which the object is relief, and of which usefulness may or may not be an incident?
There cannot be a question about it; the first system is the advantageous one; the other may lead even to evils, instead of doing good, where the works are forced on hastily to such an extent as they were in 1846 and 1847.

8686. If the distress be very generally distributed, and the mode of relief sought to be given is through public works, does it not logically follow that your public works must be diffused contemporaneously with the distress?
Certainly; and it will be very difficult to combine with it the object of an adequate degree of utility of the work.

8687. If the object be relief, must you not distribute your public works through all parts of the country where the distress exists?
Certainly, and to a great waste of labour.

8688. If a public work is undertaken for purposes of usefulness, does it not tend to the future development of the resources of the country in which it is executed; for instance, if a harbour is constructed where a harbour is required, or a road through a mountainous district, which is not opened, is not that useful, not only by the employment which it gives at the time, but by the market for labour which it tends afterwards to develop and to create?
Certainly; it always has that effect.

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8689. If the purpose of a public work is primarily that of relief, and the usefulness of the work is only secondary, and in a small degree incidental, is not that last object, which is the most important one, altogether lost sight of?
Very much so, undoubtedly.

8690. Supposing a public work undertaken merely for the purposes of relief, without a tendency to future usefulness, and the future development of a demand for labour, may not the aggregation of numbers, particularly in Ireland, that are brought together for the purposes of the work, become inconvenient after the work has ceased?
Certainly it would; but I imagine that when works are for relief, they would be so much dispersed that they would not be aggregated in very large numbers in any one place.

8691. In proportion as they are so distributed, do not you diminish your power of special selection of useful works?
No doubt.

8692. Where works are undertaken for the purposes of relief, are not you necessarily driven to accept as labourers persons whom you would not otherwise employ?
Certainly.

8693. Are not you in the same proportion deprived of the means of dismissing those labourers for misconduct, when the consequence of their dismissal is their starvation?
Precisely; the pickaxe and shovel are in fact tickets for relief, and not emblems of labour.

8694. Is it to those circumstances that you attribute what is generally considered to be the disproportion between the expense incurred under the last public works system, and the benefits conferred upon Ireland?
They were perfectly useless, and worse than useless very often, from the mode in which they were necessarily carried on.

8695. That was inevitable from the circumstances of the case, without attributing misconduct to any one?
In very many ways those works were attended with very injurious effects. First, when the necessity for them as a medium of relief having ceased, they were abruptly relinquished, the object for which they were commenced as works being only partly accomplished; for instance, a road-way half cut through, or excavations for drainage only carried out for a portion of the entire project. Such operations, left in that unfinished state (as many of them have been), may prove for the time positive evils; and what is worse, they have, unreasonably, been made subjects for censure of the Board of Public Works, as well as of much hardship, in the case of arterial drainage, to individual proprietors, who may become liable for repayment of a very disproportionate amount of expenditure for the benefit conferred, when it would have been quite moderate had the whole plan been completed.

8696. In the event of money being paid upon public works undertaken for purposes of relief, does your experience in Ireland lead you to any conclusion as to whether those money wages will withdraw the peasantry from their ordinary agricultural occupations?
They do to a certain extent.

8697. Would that be the tendency in a country in which wages are very low, and the payment of those wages is uncertain, and where, consequently, the attractiveness of payment by the week at a higher rate of wages is peculiarly felt?
It would have that effect; but in ordinary times it was our rule not to offer wages exceeding the fair rate of the time and district.

8698. May the Committee conclude, from the evidence which you have given, that any supposed failure of public works during the famine affords no argument whatever that is applicable as against a well-understood system of public works undertaken for their usefulness, carefully selected, and well superintended in the manner which existed in your department before the famine?

There

There is no comparison between the two things at all; the one is essentially useful, and the other, as urged on by circumstances in 1846 and 1847, an unnatural course ending in disappointment.

8699. Have the opinions which you have expressed in favour of public works, for purposes of usefulness, received the sanction of previous Parliamentary Committees and Commissions?

The Report of 1831, on the State of the Poor in Ireland, adverted to those same principles.

8700. Were the principles acted upon in the Act of 1831 recognized and recommended by various Parliamentary authorities?

By the Report of 1831 they were.

8701. You stated that you subsequently went over to Ireland, at the time of the distress, as Chief Commissioner for the management of the relief proceedings; what was the principle upon which you proceeded in the administration of relief; did you form Financial Committees in different localities?

We formed Finance Committees and Relief Committees, as the Act of Parliament had defined, laying down instructions for their proceedings.

8702. Those Financial Committees were selected by you amongst the most respectable and leading country gentlemen in the various localities?

We collected names and recommended them to the Lord Lieutenant, and they were appointed; we frequently reported a greater number than were required, and the Lord Lieutenant selected from them; there were Finance Committees for each Union, and Relief Committees for every Electoral District, or, in some few cases, for more than one.

8703. Can you state what was the number of those Finance Committees?

One for every Union in the distressed districts which made application; 127 in all; that is, comprehending every Union but three, namely, Belfast, Antrim and Newtownards.

8704. Assuming that there were 120 Finance Committees that were appointed under your recommendation, what, on the whole, was your sense of the conduct of those Finance Committees, consisting, as they did, mainly of the country gentlemen of Ireland?

They behaved admirably; far better than we could have expected under the circumstances of the sacrifices of time and labour, and even, sometimes, under threats of personal violence; I do not know a single case where they did not behave remarkably well; there were one or two where there was a difficulty in procuring members to undertake the task at all, but those that did act, acted well.

8705. But, upon the whole, considering an exigency of that unexpected kind, and of that unexampled magnitude, was the conduct of those country gentlemen so selected, and entrusted by you with the financial administration, such as, in your judgment as an officer and as a gentleman, to satisfy you with the mode in which the duties were performed?

So much so that I thought that a similar organization might form an admirable foundation for future local management and arrangements.

8706. Had you, in any one instance in relation to those Financial Committees, reason to suspect any misapplication of the pecuniary resources which were placed by you at their disposal?

None on the part of a whole Committee; but I believe there were one or two individuals out of the whole of the Finance Committees in all Ireland who we thought had lent themselves to incorrect practices.

8707. In other parts of the empire, if a calamity of so unexpected and sudden a nature had arisen, and upon the exigency of the moment, without more of previous knowledge and investigation than you had the power of applying at the time you had had to form Financial Committees charged with similar duties, as far as morality and integrity was concerned, do you think you would have had the affairs better conducted?

I hardly think they could have been better conducted; they might have been as well.

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8708. We will go further now in relation to the Relief Committees; they were formed of subordinate materials?
They were.

8709. In many cases they were formed in very distant places, where you had not the same class of society to have recourse to?
In all cases they were habitually of an inferior class, in station of life, to the members of Finance Committees.

8710. You had officers appointed by the Government to act in conjunction with them?
Yes; they were called Inspectors.

8711. On the whole, taking into account the peculiarity of the case, was the conduct of the Relief Committees satisfactory or the reverse?
On the whole, I should say satisfactory; some of them were decidedly bad; but you must consider the materials from which they were composed in some districts; there were instances of members of Relief Committees who could not read and write.

8712. You were driven to take them by the peculiarity of the case, and also by the exigency of the Act of Parliament which compelled you to take certain classes?
Yes.

8713. Over which you could exercise no discretion?
No discretion.

8714. Having described the organization, will you have the goodness to describe the mode in which the relief was given; was it given in money or in food?
It was given in food in all cases.

8715. Do not you attach very great importance to the limitation to food in the mode of administering relief in preference to money?
It was much less likely to be abused, and when we obtained the issues in cooked food, any abuse was still more difficult.

8716. You considered that the raw food, meal, was a better thing to give than money, but that cooked food was still better than raw meal?
Yes; the issue of raw meal was abused, but the cooked food could scarcely.

8717. Your desire, and your direction was, that cooked food should be adopted generally?
We made every possible effort to effect it.

8718. How was the raw food jobbed?
One individual would get several rations under fictitious names, and we heard of instances of respectable farmers going and getting quantities of meal, carrying them off in sacks, and feeding their pigs with it.

8719. That abuse was not practicable with cooked food?
No, that could not be done.

8720. Were those instances, in your judgment, sufficient to constitute the majority of cases, or were they cases of exception?
Cases of exception, decidedly; if the business had continued, we should have got rid of the whole of the abuse; all our arrangements were to be effected in a short time; we had at one time 3,000,000 of people receiving rations.

8721. As far as you could judge, were those cases of abuse more frequent in Ireland than they might have been, under similar circumstances, in England or in Scotland?
I think they were more frequent in Ireland than they would have been in England or Scotland, because there would have been better means of superintending the issues.

8722. In addition to the abuse which you have described, which was of the grossest character, was there not another, incident to giving away the raw material, which was dangerous, namely, the possible commutation of the raw meal for other articles which the recipients might prefer, more especially whiskey?
Yes;

Yes; and there was still another evil, when the raw meal was Indian corn, that it produced very dangerous effects, if it was improperly cooked, which the poor people frequently fell into, from ignorance; it produced disorders, and even death.

8723. How long did your functions continue in Ireland as administering the relief system?

From February to October 1847.

8724. At the close of your proceedings, the present Sir Charles Trevelyan, being Secretary of the Treasury, joined you in Dublin?

He went to Dublin for a few days.

8725. Did you feel it your duty, at the close of your labours, to address a public letter explanatory of your proceedings, and giving that advice to the recipients of relief, the Irish people, which, in your judgment, their circumstances required?

Sir Charles Trevelyan requested me to make a short statement of the existing state of the country, and I did so the next day, and gave it to him, and he said that would answer the purpose.

8726. Have you a copy of it?

I will procure a copy.

The same is delivered in, and is as follows:

Sir,

Notwithstanding the impatience expressed at the demands for Ireland, we must still, in common charity, afford her considerable assistance.

Distress still hangs over that country, from which she is quite unable to relieve herself.

It is not the ordinary distress of a lowering the condition of people from one of luxury or comfort, but it is the reducing them from the lowest state that can support life, to one without means even to do that.

Absolute famine still stares whole districts in the face, and we must not allow ourselves to become callous to the horrors of such an evil, because we have had it before us for any given period.

But it is said it is their own fault, and originates in an erroneous and improvident system: supposing it to be so, are we to allow thousands to die of starvation because they were enabled by Providence to subsist previously, for almost ages, on an *erroneous system?*

The only other argument against extraneous relief, is that the country ought to be called upon to make sacrifices to relieve itself, and that the property of Ireland must support its poverty; a just maxim under ordinary circumstances, and one that has been adopted by the Legislature in the provisions of the new Poor Law.

That law, being duly carried out, will compel all that can contribute for the support of the poor, to do so in proportion to their means, and will reduce the demand on others to what cannot possibly be met by that provision.

The extent of the effect of the loss of the potato in Ireland, however, is still not perfectly understood, particularly as affects all whose income was dependent on the land, up to the greatest proprietors.

The great mass of a dense population, spread over the face of the country, lived, as is well known, on the potato.

A family, once located on from to three or four acres of land, was provided for; a cabin would be raised in a few days without the expense of a sixpence; the potatoes, at the cost of a very little labour, supplied them with a sufficiency of a food with which from habit they were perfectly content; and a pig, or with some, a cow, or donkey, or pony, and occasional labour, at a very low rate of wages, gave them what was requisite to pay a rent, and for such clothing and other articles as were absolutely necessary, and which, with a great proportion, were on the lowest scale of human existence.

The foundation of the whole, however, was the possession of the bit of land; it was the one, and the only one, thing absolutely necessary; *the rent consequently was high, and generally well paid,* being the first demand on all money received, in order to secure that essential tenure, and only what remained became applicable to the other objects.

Although of the lowest grade, it was an easy mode of subsistence, and led to the encouragement of early marriages, large families, and a rapidly increasing population; and at the same time afforded the proprietor a very good return of profit for his land. We can hardly wonder at the continuance of this *improvident* system, as it has been called.

The entire loss of the potato in 1846, threw this whole class into absolute destitution; whatever little means could be obtained, went for *food*; thousands died of want, and of course not a shilling of rent could be raised among them, thus spreading distress to many superior classes.

The next to these were the small farmers, who cultivated from six to twenty or thirty acres, and may be supposed to have been exempt from being much affected by the calamity,

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but were not so. They were, in fact, without capital; the food for themselves, families and dependents was still the potato; they had a cow or two, perhaps, a pony and a cart, and two or three pigs. Their farming was of the most slovenly description, and their selling produce, after paying their rent, afforded a little better clothing, and a little more of comforts, than enjoyed by the cottiers.

Still the mainstay was the potato. When that went, every thing else at the disposition of this class was required for food, and with a great number was insufficient; the payment of rent was not only impossible, but all the little stock and other means for future continuance of their habitual occupation were disposed of; and a great number of this class were added to the absolutely destitute. Here, again, is experienced another falling off; for these constituted the lower *rate-payers*, whose contributions for supporting the poor can not only no longer be looked to, but who will themselves, many of them, add to the number of paupers to be supported.

The extent to which these two classes were affected by the loss of the potato, may be estimated by the numbers that it was found necessary to furnish with mere food for many months in 1847, which at one time amounted to 3,000,000 individuals.

It is usual to consider the property in Ireland *generally* as fairly chargeable with the remedy for the result of this calamity, after the first helping hand given to it; but it cannot be so adjusted.

In all parts the evil has been felt, but in some much more intensely than in others.

On all the eastern side of Ireland, from North to South, the proximity to the English markets induced a greater cultivation of produce for barter, and there are more farmers, graziers, &c., independent of such an article as the potato, although there is, mixed up with them, a large number of cottiers; but even these latter have in some degree more resources in available means for the application of their labour.

These districts, therefore, may reasonably be required to make the necessary sacrifices to struggle through the difficulty, and may comprehend, perhaps, four-fifths of the country; but the remaining fifth—that along the West of Ireland—remains in a most deplorable condition, and has not within itself the possible power of relief.

The West of Ireland is far removed from markets, and it would require the judicious application of much capital, and under more favourable circumstances than Ireland has yet afforded, to raise it from its late condition of mere self-supporting existence.

The consequence has been, that these western counties are almost entirely occupied by the cottiers and small holders above described, not only arising from their backward state as regards the production of articles for barter, but encouraged by another casual circumstance in the nature of the coast, which being in deep gulfs and inlets, supplied them with an abundance of seaweed, which applied to the land was peculiarly favourable to the propagation of the potato.

Hence the great body of the people there are now without food, and the few above them without the rents which could supply the only means of relieving the rest.

In other countries, one interest may come to the relief of another; the farmer may relieve the manufacturer and merchant, *vice versâ* as the case requires it; but in Ireland there is but one interest, being that in the produce of the land.

It may be assumed, perhaps, that the people having now gone through the periods of dearth of the two last years, ought to be sufficientiy provided for by the abundant produce of the present season.

Undoubtedly the especial hand of Providence has been thus mercifully extended towards the relief of the people, in a manner that will greatly mitigate the general distress, but it still leaves a large amount absolutely requiring a great extent of human and humane exertion.

Although the potatoes have succeeded better this year than on the two former, not above one-sixth of the usual quantity has been planted, and that not by the small occupiers, as usual, for their support, because the case appeared hopeless, and even otherwise the seed was wanting.

The lands of many were ill adapted to other crops, or they had no means of tilling them; or even where they have put in turnips or oats, &c., the produce will be quite insufficient for their support; for it must be observed, that *it requires three times the quantity of land laid out in corn to what would be necessary in potatoes, to feed for the year any given number of persons.*

Thus it must plainly appear, that Ireland in all parts is still in much distress; but along the West, very active and extended benevolence is required to be exerted from elsewhere, to prevent the most horrible scenes; that this calamity is continuous, and can only be gradually removed by a new order in the social system, which it will be the interest, and must be the effort, of all parties to introduce and to accelerate.

Dublin, 6 Oct. 1847. *J. F. Burgoyne.*

8727. Is that relation of your impression of the then state of the case varied at all by subsequent consideration?

Not at all.

8728. You state that your general desire and direction was, that cooked food should be adopted in all cases, but that there were many cases in which it was not adopted; were there not many cases in which there was great difficulty, if not impossibility, of adopting it on the exigency?

There

There generally was a reluctance to adopt it, and, I believe, in a few cases, but very few, on sufficient grounds.

8729. Do you think that it might have been adopted more extensively than it was if there had been a disposition to do so.

It might have been adopted more extensively and earlier than it was.

8730. Who gave the tickets?

The Relief Committees, under such general inspection of our officers as could be given by an individual having an extensive district to superintend.

8731. Your officers had constant access to the lists of the Relief Committees, and acted, in most cases, in harmony with them?

They had free access to the lists when they had a wish, and an opportunity of inspecting them.

8732. Was it your opinion that the system ought to have been continued longer than it was?

I think not.

8733. Why did you think it was expedient to put an end to it?

I thought it was a bad system to keep the people under that kind of system, of depending upon bare food, if we could possibly avoid it, though it was better than the public works system.

8734. You thought it the best system under the pressure?

Under the extreme pressure of that emergency it was the best system that could be adopted.

8735. What would be your opinion of a possible combination of the two systems, at such a time of exigency, in this way, that the able-bodied should be especially employed upon the public works, and those who were not able-bodied should receive relief of the kind which you have described?

My idea was always that public works should, at a period of that kind, be pushed to the greatest possible extent, keeping them to objects of utility, that would subsequently develop the resources of the country; because, in the case of every man that is employed on public works, not only is he himself taken away from the demand for food, or for money, from the resources of the Poor Law, but his wages go towards supporting his family also; so that probably almost every individual who was supported by the public works was the means of taking off four or five others from the pressure on the Poor Law funds.

8736. But to render such a system practicable or expedient, you would still have made the test of the work its future practical undeniable usefulness?

Decidedly; I would have made that one ingredient always to be attended to.

8737. If you had employed the able-bodied upon the public works, you would have made them work either by task, or at a rate of wages not exceeding the ordinary wages of the country?

We decidedly wished never to exceed the ordinary rate of wages, for fear of doing injury to the farming interests, and there was always an endeavour to introduce task-work as much as possible. But it is exceedingly difficult; there is a great prejudice against task-work in Ireland; on a few occasions, however, we got it in use, and it showed itself so advantageous to those who were inclined to be industrious, that it was thus by degrees established.

8738. Does not task-work require peculiarly competent persons to fix the prices, to make the measurements, and to secure the proper execution of the work?

We do not find any difficulty in England; but in Ireland there is great difficulty in it, at first particularly.

8739. Supposing such an enormous extent of public works to be engaged in, as were engaged in, in Ireland, upon that exigency, do you think it would have been possible to have got together a qualified corps of superintendence with 700,000 men at work, and 15,000 staff superintending them, to have carried on a good system of allotment and measurement of task-work?

It would have been quite impossible. But my previous answer had in view works that could have been conducted properly and under proper superintendence.

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Wherever there is the habit of task-work, men get a greater facility of judging of the measurement, even by the eye, and there is no dispute about it.

8740. Had you been in the habit of employing the labourers by task-work upon public works in Ireland formerly?

We always endeavoured to introduce it upon all public works of which we had the immediate direction.

8741. Were you able to do it effectually?

We were in some cases; but it was not very general. We always tried to do it everywhere.

8742. But you were not generally successful in doing it at previous periods?

No.

8743. You stated that you would not have wished to continue permanently the system of relief which you administered to the destitute poor in food; what were the reasons that brought you to that conclusion?

I would rather prefer providing in any other way that I could for the people, particularly by works; but when it went to such an extent, I thought there was no resource but to let them starve, or to feed them in that way; my objection refers to so vast an arrangement as was necessary, hastily organized for a temporary purpose, and not to what might be done on a permanent system.

8744. As part of a permanent system, do you think that the gratuitous system of supplying food could be relied upon?

As a permanent system of Poor Law, I should think it might; but I know little of the details of working the Poor Law.

8745. The pressure had diminished when the system was discontinued?

The pressure had diminished, the harvest was coming in, and we were glad to put an end to the whole operation.

8746. From your experience, do you consider that works of real usefulness in Ireland are exhausted by the efforts which have been made since the year 1831, or that there is a considerable field still open for the advantageous employment of labour, always assuming that such an employment of labour is to be profitable?

In 1845, when I left the service, there certainly was an ample field, and I have not the least doubt that there is now. For instance, although I believe that much has been done with reference to small harbours, which is one very advantageous measure of improvement, capabilities exist for more, besides roads, drainage and internal navigations.

8747. Amongst those works, which in your judgment might be advantageously undertaken, would you comprehend the system of great lines of arterial drainage?

Decidedly; I think that one of the most important works that could be carried on in that country.

8748. Is that a description of work which if it is left to itself there is little chance of its being undertaken, from its requiring large co-operation amongst independent proprietors, and involving, in some instances, large compensations to owners of mills, and proprietors of weirs and fisheries, whose interests might be interfered with?

It could not be carried on in any other way than under a general Act of Parliament, giving the powers which the Drainage Act gave. The object is one of great utility. I do not suppose that there is such a thing done in any other country in the world as a general system of arterial drainage. There may be for individual rivers works carried on under powers conferred by Acts of Parliament; it would be impossible to conduct them in any other way. Those have been most important works, and productive of the greatest advantage.

8749. Would they not only be important in themselves, but leading to further most important consequences in exciting and facilitating the internal improvement of the country by field drainage?

They are necessary to it, because they open the general vent to enable the field drainage to be carried on.

8750. Are

8750. Are you not acquainted with certain districts in Ireland, where from the natural level of the rivers at their present outfall, and of the lands in the vicinity which require drainage, the drainage is made altogether impossible without altering the outfall?

I think there are few countries where obstructions in the river-courses have more need of removal than in Ireland.

8751. Are those instances numerous?

Yes; there is hardly any river in Ireland which does not require improvement.

8752. Take, for instance, the waters of the Deele, which flow into the River Shannon at Askeaton; is not there an immense mass of most valuable land which cannot by possibility be drained without the completion of arterial drainage?

Yes, without regulating the course of the river.

8753. If an attempt were made now to open the drains of the country, would it not, in many cases, let in the water, in place of letting out the water?

I believe it would. I can mention a striking instance of improvement effected at once; it was in the Blackwater, in county of Meath, a small river operated upon under the Act of Parliament. There was a gentleman who had a small property upon it, one who was in the habit of finding fault with every public man and every public department. A twelvemonth after the work was done, I happened to have an interview with him; he was in a particularly good humour; and he said, "The benefit that is done by that drainage has in the first year made good the whole of the expenses charged upon me." He had got absolutely cent. per cent. for the cost incurred, when the promise was only seven or eight or ten per cent. The effect was the more certain, because he was not one to approve of any act that he could help.

8754. There is a Return on the table of The House, by which it appears that a vast extent of arterial drainage which has been undertaken is now entirely suspended from the want of funds. Do not you consider that a work so commenced and so left incomplete, in place of being useful, or leading to the results which were originally contemplated, may, in some instances, lead to results of an opposite and prejudicial kind?

Only so far prejudicial as to produce a burden far heavier than ought to be upon particular individuals. I know that there are cases of that kind where the work being only partially executed, they have stopped, and the whole weight of the expense is thrown upon a small extent of property; and the consequence is, that it not only does not pay the proprietors any profit, but perhaps will be a direct loss to them; whereas if the whole work were carried out, it would be advantageous to everybody.

8755. But independently of that, in the case of arterial drainage having been undertaken as subsidiary to the principle of relief, and having been commenced, consequently, indiscriminately upon the upper and lower parts of a river, what would be the effect of having lowered the waters of the upper portion of the river, without having proportionately lowered the outfall to get rid of the accumulation of water?

That would never take place under the present administration, because there are very clever people superintending it, who would prevent any evil of that kind arising; they always begin at the lower end, and clear away as they go.

8756. It could never take place where the usefulness and due execution of the works had been the sole objects kept in view; but if for the purpose of giving relief, general directions had been given to begin drainage works wherever they could be conducted, may not cases of such a character have arisen?

If there are such cases, they must be occasioned by the Board of Public Works not having entertained a doubt about their being completed, because whatever was done would be done upon system. I know that evils arising from the non-completion of the works have given a wrong impression about arterial drainage. A gentleman of considerable influence said to me yesterday, "We have no faith in arterial drainage, because it does not answer; it is not done with judgment." I endeavoured to show him that that was only applicable to works which had been commenced under those peculiar circumstances; that they were com-

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menced for the sake of relief, and had not been allowed to be completed; but he condemned the system from those particular instances.

8757. But you consider that arterial drainage is one of the most useful of all the works which could be undertaken with public assistance?

I think one of the most useful, and peculiarly favourable for relief, because, comparatively speaking, very little materials are required to be brought from other countries; the expense is almost all in day labour.

8758. The arterial drainage must of course be looked at in connexion with field drainage, which is consequent upon it?

It allows a capability for field drainage which did not exist before.

8759. May not certain persons be discontented with their having no apparent results from the arterial drainage, when their discontent only originates from their having taken the first step without taking the second, which would make that first step profitable to them as possessors of the land?

No person will be charged with arterial drainage who will not obtain direct benefit from that drainage alone, even though he may not follow it up by subsequent improvement to contiguous lands.

8760. Will you have the goodness to take this paper in your hand—[*a Paper being handed to the Witness*].—This is a list of the arterial drainage works which have been sanctioned, and you will observe a number of them which have been entirely suspended for want of funds; can you imagine a better application, if any application should be required, of loans or any other public assistance, than to the completion of those works which have been already adopted, and which in their present condition are left incomplete?

I should consider that it would be matter of essential policy to complete those works, and those roads, which were left in an unfinished state, so as to be now positively injurious to the country.

8761. Are not some of those roads, from your own means of observation, although they have cost a considerable sum to the public and to the localities, practically injurious in the state in which they are left?

Yes.

8762. In some cases a comparatively small sum would suffice to complete them?

I imagine that a small sum would do a great deal of very important benefit.

8763. Can you suggest any works of public usefulness, which are now either not completed or not commenced, and which you think might be profitably executed in Ireland?

I could hardly venture to put any specific works prominently forward; but in the remote parts of Ireland, where the distress is greatest, there is the greatest opening for works of primary necessity; very many districts that still want roads; coasts that present advantageous sites for small harbours, piers and quays; internal navigations that might be opened to advantage, and arterial drainage at every river; many cases of which might be favourably combined with navigation.

8764. At the close of your Report of the manner in which the Relief Act was carried out, you dilated very much upon the extraordinary distress which prevailed in the West of Ireland?

I have no doubt of it.

8765. You have stated, that it far exceeded the distress which had been known to exist either on the Eastern coast or in the South?

Yes.

8766. In that Report, you stated that one of the great causes of that distress proceeded from the distance and remoteness from a market?

Yes, that is my idea.

8767. Is it still your opinion that it will be difficult permanently to restore prosperity to that part of the country, unless some facility is given in bringing them within reach of a market?

I think that would be one great means of improving the country.

8768. Are

8768. Are you aware that at present the agricultural produce of the country in the West, cannot reach the English market without considerable expense?
Yes.

8769. In what way would you wish to facilitate the communication of those parts with the English market?
Common roads, I imagine, would hardly be sufficient. Navigations and harbours would assist.

8770. Has it occurred to you that railways would be useful for that purpose?
They would be useful, but I doubt whether the country and its traffic would be able to bear the enormous expense of railways at the present time. I am not favourable to carrying them into that country at present, unless some improved system could be proposed, by which railways could be established there at a moderate expense; then I think it might be advantageous. But there is a great objection made to giving the necessary powers for the purpose, which leads to their being left to private companies to deal with them as they like, and consequently to great expense and mischief. I proposed upon two occasions a system of railways for Ireland, which I think might have answered.

8771. You refer to the system which was proposed by Lord Morpeth, then Secretary for Ireland, founded upon your Report?
That was the first.

8772. Do you think that if that system had been adopted, it would not only have led to a great and useful experiment, important in itself, and likely to have succeeded in the country in which it was applied; but that it would also have been instructive, as showing the actual cost of making a railway, and working a railway, which would not have been without its importance, with reference to the railways of this country?
I do not know how far it would have answered in this country, but I am sure that it would have been highly beneficial there; it would have led to a great extension of railways in Ireland, at a very moderate expense; subsequently, in 1842, I proposed another plan which I think would have answered, but it was overruled.

8773. Those plans having been overruled, do you think we could now, with advantage, revert to any portion of them?
I think it is too late now; private companies have been established, and they have got possession of all the good parts of the country, and it only leaves you the unprofitable extensions to execute.

8774. At the time of the prosecution of the public works last year for relief, do you conceive that the making of the earth-works of prospective railways at that time, with the expectation of afterwards disposing of those earth-works to companies who might have completed the work, would have been a preferable mode of giving employment in some districts to that which was necessarily adopted at the time of the exigency?
I never thought of that particular mode of carrying it out; I do not know what objections there would be to it. I should like to give the Committee an idea of what I proposed in 1842: my idea was, to have operated upon one general principle, by means of one public body; it need not have been a department of the State; it might have been local. I proposed to have begun by three leading trunk lines in different directions, which it is certain would have paid, and paid well; that the ultimate responsibility for the interest of the money to be expended upon it would have been upon the districts in proportion to the benefit derived by them; that responsibility, I showed by calculations, would have been almost nominal, and they would have had the whole benefit of all the profits got by it. I can show also that the works would have been carried on far more economically than they could possibly be by the present system; that we could have carried the three leading lines towards every part of Ireland, out of Dublin, by a single trunk line, for the first eight or ten miles, and from that they would have diverged in those directions. The consequence would have been, that one establishment would have answered for the whole, as well as one Dublin station, and every carriage and every locomotive would have been applicable to the whole. By beginning in that way, to a certain extent, there would have been certain profit, and after that, from the advantages that were elicited, and from the prospects

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that were held out, the thing might have gone on extending; and, from the profits it afforded, might have gone into parts which could not have supported themselves. Then, with regard to the responsibility, I divided the country into a certain number of classes: thus, the lands in the parts in this map marked purple, would derive the greatest benefit, and would bear the largest proportionate share of the responsibility; next, the red, which would have benefited in a rather smaller degree, and would have borne a smaller proportion; next, the green, and even the yellow, the extreme point, would have derived some benefit, but they would have had to bear but a small proportion. I showed that the greatest responsibility, taking it at the utmost, supposing it had been a complete failure, was less than 2 *d.* an acre; but in fact it would have been a mine of wealth to the whole country. I am satisfied that the proceeding might have been carried out in a way that would have forwarded the advantage of the country in every way.

8775. The responsibility to which you refer would have been only a contingent responsibility, in the event of the lines not paying interest?

In the event of their not paying interest, or profit of 4 per cent.

8776. Have you reason to believe that there would have been at that period any great difficulty in obtaining the capital which would have carried those lines into effect?

I proposed that the Government should advance the capital upon the security, first, of the works, and, secondly, of the districts, making the localities a party to the agreement. I always found that with regard to public works, to which districts had given an assent, there was never the least difficulty in fulfilling their engagements; neither difficulties nor complaints.

8777. Having already stated, that in your judgment the loans under your administration in Ireland were repaid with good faith, and as punctually as might have been anticipated, do you think that the same repayments would have taken place in this instance?

Certainly, the parties having assented.

8778. How did you propose to apply the money for that purpose?

Generally, to the execution of the railways as above stated. It may be observed, that even in the extreme case of the districts having to make up some small amount of deficiency, it would not have been an entire loss, because they would have had all the benefit of the railway as a means of communication, and for traffic.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till Tuesday next, Two o'clock.

Die Martis, 8° *Maii* 1849.

The LORD STEWARD in the Chair.

Evidence on the Operation of the Irish Poor Law.

CÆSAR GEORGE OTWAY, Esquire, is called in, and examined as follows:

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8779. YOU are an Inspector under the Poor Law Board in Ireland?
Yes.

8780. For what part of Ireland?
All the Unions in Donegal are under my charge; Sligo, one Union in the county of Leitrim, and two Unions in the county of Tyrone.

8781. That is at present?
Yes; I have had several districts; I am speaking of my present district.

8782. How long have you had those Unions under your charge?
Some of those Unions I have had charge of ever since I came on the Commission, upwards of 10 years ago; I formed the Unions, the Union of Donegal and the Union of Glenties, which are in my present district; I have always had the charge of these Unions.

8783. Will you state how long you have had each of the others?
The Union of Sligo I have had since 1842.

8784. Did not you form some of the other Unions in Ulster?
I formed the whole of the Unions in the county of Cavan; I formed the Unions in the county of Fermanagh; I formed a Union in the county of Monaghan, and I formed all the Unions in the county of Donegal, with the exception of the Unions of Inishowen and Ballyshannon. I have been on the Commission for 10 years. Some of the Unions that I now have charge of I formed, and I have never lost the charge of them; they have been always in my district, but other Unions were added at different times, and afterwards my district was reduced. I formed all the Unions in Cavan immediately after the Poor Law was enacted; I formed the Unions in the county of Fermanagh; I formed the Unions in the county of Donegal, with the exception of two, and I formed a Union in the county of Monaghan. Then the district was changed, and I got an increase of the district; part of the west was added, and then afterwards a larger part of the west.

8785. How many Unions have you altogether under your charge?
I now have 13; at one time my district extended from Galway Bay, including Galway, Clifden, Athlone and Longford, up to Glenties, in the extreme north-west of Donegal.

8786. What are the names of the Unions at present under your charge?
My present district comprises the Unions of Sligo, Manor Hamilton, Ballyshannon, Donegal, Glenties, Stranorlar, Castlederg, Strabane, Derry, Inishowen, Milford, Letterkenny and Dunfanaghy; I had charge of a much greater district before; my district has been changed several times; before that, I had the charge of Ballina, Castlebar, Swineford, Ballinrobe, Enniskillen and Lowtherstown; that was before the last change; before that, again, I had the Unions of Galway, Clifden, Tuam, Athlone and Longford.

8787. Confining ourselves to the Unions of which you are at present in charge, can you tell us in which of those Unions out-door relief is now given under sealed order?

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Under the sealed order there is no out-door relief given at present in any Union in my district, except in the Unions of Glenties, Donegal, Sligo and Manor Hamilton, and even in these Unions it is not the full order that is in operation, only the first limitation of the order to widows with more than one child; there is out-door relief given by the Guardians under the powers conferred by the first section of the Act in the Union of Londonderry, and to a very limited extent in the Unions of Ballyshannon and Inishowen; namely, in Ballyshannon two cases, in Inishowen 12 cases.

8788. How long has out-door relief been given in those five Unions which you have named?

Under the order it has been desultory; out-door relief has always been generally given in those Unions since shortly after the Poor Law Extension Act, but sometimes the state of the country or the neighbourhood did not require the issue of a sealed order, for the Guardians to allow widows with more than one child to get out-relief. The Guardians have the option either to give relief in the workhouse, or out of the workhouse, to the aged and infirm; those Unions adopted that course, but the sealed order is only now in operation in the Unions I have mentioned, and it has only been very lately in operation in some of them.

8789. In no case, then, in the Unions which are under your charge, is the general and enlarged order given for the able-bodied?

No; never in any Union under my charge.

8790. Has the issue of that sealed order, or a greater extension of the out-door relief than is at present given, been frequently the subject of discussion in relation to those Unions, or any of them?

It has been frequently discussed by the Guardians; at times great pressure has been upon the workhouse, and the Guardians on the one part have been endeavouring to prevent the issue of the full order, while other parties have been endeavouring to obtain it; we have had great pressure of that kind in the Union of Sligo, particularly last year; this year we have had no pressure, comparatively speaking.

8791. In that case, where there was that difference of opinion which you have described by a pressure put upon the Guardians, and a disposition on the part of the Guardians to resist it, was your opinion in favour of the pressure which sought for the extension of out-door relief, or in favour of the judgment of the Guardians which resisted it?

It entirely depended upon what I considered was the nature of the pressure, whether it was a real pressure, from extreme destitution, or whether the object was merely to obtain a share of the public funds; generally speaking, I have considered that the pressure could be met, very considerably at least, by applying the proper tests, and that the greater amount of the pressure was fictitious or fraudulent.

8792. When you say "fictitious or fraudulent," is there a disposition on the part of the people generally, or any considerable number of them, those who may be recipients of the relief, to drive the Guardians, in the administration of their functions, to grant the out-door relief?

Decidedly, because when it has been met by applying a test, it has been checked enormously.

8793. Can you give any instances in which the application of the test has distinguished between the real claim for relief, for the purpose of relieving distress, and the fraudulent claim which was advanced for the purpose of either living in indolence or obtaining relief where relief was not really required?

I can state a case in the Sligo Union; after the Poor Law Extension Act was passed, the Guardians and myself concurred that the issuing of out-door relief was to be avoided as far as possible; that it was to be regarded as a dangerous remedy, and only to be called in when absolutely necessary. The Guardians met the pressure which was put upon them; they at once appointed Relieving Officers, and immediately put on out-relief all the aged and infirm, which they had a right to do under the first section of the Act, and then when the pressure was still continued, they made preliminary and conditional agreements as to hiring a large store; they did not absolutely hire it; and the chairman of the Union, Mr. Wynn,

Wynn, concurring with me and a majority of the Board of Guardians as to the danger of extending out-relief, and wishing to test the great pressure which arose at the time, issued a number of orders upon the Workhouse much beyond the number that the Workhouse could hold; we had at that time about 400 vacancies in the Workhouse, and he signed tickets at one time to the amount of about 1,100, having made preliminary arrangements that we might fall back upon this store; the consequence was that though he issued 1,100 tickets, I cannot exactly be accurate as to the number, but certainly 200 of the 400 vacancies were not filled up; then when the people saw that we were determined not to give out-door relief, and finding that we were taking the stores and testing them in the Workhouse, the pressure ceased; this occurred about October or November, and it was not until the spring of the year that we were obliged to take the store for which we had entered into a previous preliminary agreement.

8794. When you speak of taking a store, are the Committee to understand that it was for the purpose of being fitted up for a Workhouse, so as to apply more generally the Workhouse test?

Yes; it was an auxiliary Workhouse.

8795. You have spoken of the dangers which were apprehended; what description of danger, from the extension of out-door relief, did you apprehend?

The danger of people wishing to obtain relief that did not require it, and also the demoralizing effects that a large extent of relief would have, by leading the people to trust to extraordinary relief, instead of trusting to their own exertions in order to better their own condition.

8796. Taking the present price of Indian meal, and the amount of the rations which are given, and assuming that a pound of meal a day for an adult, and a proportionate ration for a younger person, could be procured at about a penny a day, or 7*d.* a week, is there not an idea that very strongly impresses itself upon the minds of some classes of Guardians, and the people, that the out-door relief at an expense of 7*d.* a week in place of, perhaps, 2*s.* a week for in-door relief, recommends out-door relief as a measure of economy?

I have met individual Guardians, but I am happy to say I never met a Board of Guardians, who were so ignorant, I might say, of the position and the necessities of the country as to adopt such a view as that.

8797. On what grounds, where the expense *per caput* is so much less, do you apprehend that the interests of the public are best adhered to by the more expensive in-door system of relief,—confining the question for the present to the mere matter of economy?

As a mere matter of economy, it would cost about 30*s.* a-year to support a man on out-door relief, and 4*l.* or 4*l.* 10*s.* on in-door relief; but the question is as to the ultimate effects of it; I should guard myself against its being supposed that, because I say it is cheaper, I am in favour of out-door relief.

8798. It is cheaper per head, but if the multiplication of the numbers of claimants for out-door relief at the cheaper rate is so great as compared with in-door relief, is not the question of economy in favour of the apparently more expensive plan?

Of course; if the in-door relief was 10*l.* a head or 20*l.*, instead of 4*l.*, it would be ultimately cheaper; for one that would look for or accept in-relief, 20 or 40 would accept out-relief.

8799. Is that the result not only of your view of the general principle of the case, but is it also the result of the peculiarity of the Irish people, that there is a disposition to press in upon any system of relief afforded them, consistently with their freedom of action out of doors?

I think it is applicable almost to any population which I was ever acquainted with; but it is more especially applicable to the Irish population, and the moral state of the people renders the objections to that mode of relief still greater.

8800. Comparing the Irish peasantry with persons in the social state of the English population, is there not a greater habit of dependency, and greater want of self-exertion, amongst the Irish peasantry, than amongst the peasantry in this country?

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As far as I have had any opportunities of judging, decidedly greater; I think that that is the great misfortune of the country.

8801. If that be so, are not any dangers which may be felt in this country from the extension of out-door relief, and any experience which may be derived from the English practice showing the consequences of it, applicable in a still greater ratio to the population of a country situated like Ireland?

Decidedly.

8802. When you speak of the in-door relief which is given, is not the condition of a pauper received into a well-managed Workhouse in Ireland, as far as his physical wants are concerned, his clothing, his fuel, his housing and his food, better than the condition of a labourer out of doors?

It is.

8803. Then if the Workhouse operates as a test, it must be from some other causes than a comparison of the provision made for the physical wants of the person within the Workhouse, and without. Will you have the goodness to state what those causes are which make the Workhouse act as a test in well-managed Workhouses?

The classification, the restraint and confinement in a well-managed Workhouse.

8804. And the cleanliness?

And the cleanliness; that operates at first; they are not accustomed to it.

8805. Have you had the power of comparison, in your own experience, of the efficiency of the Workhouse as a test, in a case where it is a well-managed Workhouse, and in a case where, from over-crowding, and from inadequate resources, the management of it is not efficient, and where probably, from the want of experience or knowledge of the local officers at the head of it, the Workhouse is not well managed?

I have had considerable opportunities of making such a comparison, and I have found the greatest possible difference; for instance, in an auxiliary house which is not properly managed, and where there are not the restraints of proper classification, where they are, to use a common expression, hugger-mugger together, where there is a mixture of classes, and they are allowed to talk and chat together, it becomes no test; I directed the attention of the Poor Law Commissioners in a special Report, upwards of a year and a half ago, as to the necessity for enlarging Workhouses, especially where auxiliary Workhouses were required, and to the absolute necessity of having some uniform and well-adapted plan for the enlargement of Workhouses, so as to preserve our classification, on the ground that from my experience I found that in Workhouses and auxiliaries, where you had not proper classification, the value of the test was lost; and I have always considered the Workhouse test as the great safety of the working of the Poor Law in Ireland.

8806. Taking two Workhouses, the one well-managed, that in the eye and the judgment of a well-educated person would afford comfort and proper support and maintenance to the inmates, and the other ill-managed, where they were crowded together, and where the discipline was relaxed, but accompanied with great privation, want of bedding, want of clothing, and the numbers greater than the house could afford, which of the two would be the best test?

The one where the good management was; they would infinitely prefer the privations of food and clothing, and the insufficiency of fuel to the good Workhouse, with the regular and necessary classification.

8807. In auxiliary Workhouses, meaning as such Workhouses entirely detached from the central Workhouse, and consequently left without the same system of management which would be applied to the central Workhouse, is there not a difficulty also of being certain that the restraints are effectually imposed which prohibit the going beyond them?

Yes, there is that danger; but at the same time, if you get a proper class of officers, you can manage an auxiliary as well as a Workhouse, if you adopt the proper rules and arrangements; it is not to be supposed that I object altogether to auxiliaries, but they are more liable to abuse; Guardians running in a hurry to get an auxiliary, will get one perhaps not well adapted for the purpose,

pose, and not put proper officers over in charge of it; they do not exactly see the danger of that point at first.

8808. Supposing the auxiliary Workhouse ill-managed, and parties allowed to run in and out in quest of employment, and to find a refuge at night, have you any doubt that that, in place of operating as any test at all, would operate as a means of increasing pauperism?

I think it would be most objectionable; it would entirely do away with the value of the test; it would make the Workhouse a mere hotel; you would have all the evils of the in-door system, with very many of the evils of the out-door added to them; I have always objected to the Workhouses, for instance, along the main roads at Strabane and Derry, taking in paupers for the night when it could be avoided; I have endeavoured in every way to impress upon the minds of Guardians the absolute necessity of putting some labour test upon the paupers when they came in merely for a night; when they are apparently without food, and in a state of extreme exhaustion, it is difficult, and would be wrong, absolutely to refuse them.

8809. Are you in possession of any of the statistical facts of any of those Unions of which you have charge at the present time; can you, for instance, give us a picture of the Union of Glenties as compared with the Union of Dunfanaghy, showing the number of its inmates, and so on?

I have a paper which shows the state of the Union of Glenties, as compared with the Union of Dunfanaghy; I have a paper that will show the numbers relieved in each Union during the past and present year.

8810. By a Return which is on the Table of the House, the following particulars are extracted in relation to the Unions of Dunfanaghy and Glenties. The Return is of the accounts made up to the 29th of September 1848; in Glenties the net debt on the 29th of September 1847, was 1,992 *l.*, the debt of Dunfanaghy was nothing. The expenses incurred during the year 1848 in Glenties were 8,072 *l.*; the expenses in Dunfanaghy were 1,551 *l.*; the valuation of the rated property of Dunfanaghy was 10,769 *l.*, that of Glenties was 16,389 *l.* In Glenties, out-door relief was given to single able-bodied men during the week ending 8th July, 78; to men with families, 290; to wives, 265, and children under 15 years of age, 648; making a total of 1,281. Under those heads there was not a single person in the Union of Dunfanaghy. The highest number on out-door relief at the close of any week during the year in Glenties was 4,082 under section 1; under section 2, 3,331, making a total of 7,413, being a proportion of $\frac{17}{100}$ths to the population; assuming those figures, can you state to us what is the reason, in your judgment, which constitutes so great a difference between those two contiguous Unions?

In the Union of Dunfanaghy out-door relief never was administered at all; it never was begun. In the Union of Dunfanaghy there was an admirable Board of Guardians, who understood the country, and who devoted their time to the proper working of the law, and who understood the nature of the law. In the Union of Glenties we had not those beneficial checks for the prevention of abuse; and though this may account for a portion of the difference, it will not, in my opinion, account for it altogether. The two districts of country are different in their social relations and in the condition of the people, to a considerable extent. In the Union of Dunfanaghy, the parish of Clondchorky, and part of Raymonterdoney, the north and north-eastern portions of that Union differ as much from the western portions of it as the county of Down differs from the county of Mayo. In those parishes in the north-eastern portion there are a number of Scotch settlers, respectable farmers, dispersed throughout the district, who act as points of resistance to abuse; they resist it themselves, and enable the public officers and the Boards of Guardians, in the administration of the law, to resist it by their concurrence and their support. In the extreme western portion of the Union, the parish of Tullaghobigly very much corresponds with the nature of the Union of Glenties, which it adjoins, but it is very different from the north-eastern portion; the greater part of the parish of Tullaghobigly, east and west, is mountainous, and the population comparatively small; a large and miserable population exist along the coast, extending from the Bloody Foreland to the Guidore, where Lord George Hill some years ago purchased property, and endeavoured to improve it.

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The pressure that might have arisen from that particular district has been very much mitigated and prevented by the measures adopted by him. In the Union of Dunfanaghy we have a number of large resident proprietors; we have Mr. Stewart, of Ards; we have Mr. Olperts, of Ballyconnell; Mr. Charles Stewart, of Hornhead, and Mr. Nixon; and in the bad part of the Union, from which the greatest abuse and distress might have been expected to arise, we have Lord George Hill; and whatever the results may have been as to the amelioration of the condition of the people from his exertions, there can be no doubt whatsoever that much of the pressure upon extraneous relief, or upon Poor Laws, has been obviated by his exertions, and that good has resulted from his changing the people from the Rundale system to their present form of holdings, and by his endeavours to improve their general condition. All those circumstances combined together, the good part on the one side, and the bad part being cared for, in the manner I have stated, on the other side, produced the difference. There is also another cause which I consider operates in the Union of Glenties. Every person that knows anything of Ireland, every traveller that has been through Ireland, acknowledges that the Union of Glenties presented a most extraordinary excess of population to the means of subsistence. You have in the district called The Bosses a rocky country interspersed with a few green spots, and you have the sea, which has induced an enormous population, half fishermen, half landowners, and doing neither well. The consequence has been that you have had periodical returns of famine; I have known three or four in my experience. Before I was on the Poor Law Commission at all I knew that country; I inspected it on another Commission, and there were then periodical returns of famine; the population was almost always verging on the edge of a famine: it depended whether there was or was not to be a great scarcity, not only on the failure of the potato crop, but upon the slightest check as to its amount. Then in Glenties you had not, to the same extent, those respectable settlers; you had not those points of resistance to abuse; you had not those resident gentry; and I only wonder, and am astonished, that there was not a greater pressure for relief in the Union of Glenties last year; and I do consider, under the circumstances of that part of the country, when I compare it with the West of Ireland, that the comparison is very much in its favour.

8811. From a comparison of the population with the valuation in Glenties, does it not give only 7*s.* 3*d.* per head, whereas in Dunfanaghy does not the comparison of the population with the valuation give 11*s.* 4*d.* per head?

I presume that that is correct.

8812. You have spoken of the extraordinary excess of population in certain parts of that district; do you connect that with the facilities which sea-manure and other advantages have afforded for the cultivation of the potato?

I do; though in Glenties, taking the whole Union, there might not be a great excess of population as compared with the population of the Union of Dunfanaghy, still you have a great excess in some particular parts, especially on the sea-board, where you have the sea-manure and where you have fish.

8813. You have described the Board of Guardians of Dunfanaghy, and stated the results which have attended a Board of Guardians so constituted; will you have the goodness to describe to us the Board of Guardians as it was originally formed in Glenties?

May I go back to the Board of Guardians of Dunfanaghy, and show the effect of the working of that Board? It is a poor Union, and I wanted to have the idiot wards raised so as to be made applicable to other inmates in the Workhouse. At the Board of Guardians, four or five gentlemen said, "You have not the money; we will advance the money ourselves as a loan, free of interest, payable by instalments." Not only that, but the landowners have come forward in many cases to pay half the rate in the first instance, which amount they have the right only to deduct when their rent is being paid by the occupiers: I have the co-operation of a good Board of Guardians in Dunfanaghy.

8814. Will you have the goodness to describe the state of the Board of Guardians of Glenties, as compared with that which you have described of the Board of Guardians of Dunfanaghy; of what individuals was it originally composed?

The original Board of Guardians was composed, in many cases, of people very

very little removed (as far as regards property) from the occupiers of the Workhouse.

8815. Who was the chairman, and what was his trade?
One chairman kept a small shop; the first chairman, whose name I forget, had a small shop in the village of Ardra, a wretched village.

8816. Was he a tinker?
Very little better; not exactly a tinker; though I speak of him in that way, he was one of the most respectable men whom I met in my official connexion with that part of the country; if he was a tinker, it speaks the better for him.

8817. You have stated the position of the chairman, and done credit to his integrity?
That was the first chairmam.

8818. What were the members of the first Board, independently of the chairman?
They were all chiefly of the class of the chairman; they went down indeed to the very lowest; the qualification was 5 *l.*; you may imagine a 5 *l.* qualification in that country, and that was the class,—a class of men that I have often seen looking for relief themselves; but respectable and intelligent men.

8819. Taking the Unions of Glenties and Dunfanaghy, what was the number of *ex-officio* Guardians of the one Union and the number of *ex-officio* Guardians of the other?
We had very few *ex-officio* Guardians in Glenties; there were very few magistrates in the Union; I had no minority in the Glenties Board of Guardians; many of the upper class and magistrates found the majority in the Board of Guardians so great, that they left the whole management of the Union to whoever the officer was, and to the then Board of Guardians. I have often said, "Give me a minority; give me something to support me."

8820. In consequence of this state of things, was any alteration made in the constitution of the Board of Guardians?
Yes, the qualification was raised to 10 *l.*

8821. Have there been elections under this higher qualification?
Yes.

8822. What alteration has it made in the description of the Guardians returned, comparing the present state of the Board of Guardians of Glenties with the previous state, which you have already described?
The number of *ex-officio* Guardians has been increased by the creation of Magistrates; and then, the number of *ex-officio* Guardians, in proportion to elected Guardians, has been increased by the Poor Law Amendment Act, but as to the class that is elected, except in a few instances, I think there is very little difference.

8823. Is the administration of the Union of Glenties better under the new Board than it was under the old?
I consider that the administration under the present Board is better than under the old Board, because there was no minority before; there is now a better division as to the two classes in the Board of Guardians, and I think that those two classes existing in the Board operate beneficially.

8824. In what respect has that alteration shown itself in an improved administration of the affairs of the Board?
In the circumstances of the Workhouse being better conducted; the striking of rates at proper times; a more general exertion as to the collection of rates, and the endeavouring to avoid the debts and embarrassments that they were in before; but there is another cause which I should think a very important one, that latterly there has been a resident Inspector; I had charge of this Union at one time, together with the charge of 20 other Unions, and could only occasionally go there; I went there only on general questions, to advise, but the details of local management I was not able to meet.

8825. Could you give us the number of *ex-officio* Guardians in those two Unions?

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I am not aware of the exact number, but I know that all the *ex-officio* Guardians in Dunfanaghy are members of the Board of Guardians, and they are not half the number of the Board.

8826. The figures which have been put to you are the representations of the financial condition of those two Unions up to the 29th of September 1848; could you give us the present results as affecting those two Unions?

On the 31st of March, which is the last information I have, there were 268 in Dunfanaghy Workhouse, and the number in March 1848 was 327; with regard to Glenties, the number in the Glenties Workhouse and its auxiliaries, on the week ending the 7th of April, was 789, and on out-door relief, 1,342; on the 31st of March 1848 there were 501 in the Workhouse; on the 1st of April 1848 the total number of persons receiving out-door relief was 4,693, viz., under the first section of the Act, 3,663, and under the second section, 1,030.

8827. In the Union of Glenties do you apprehend an increase of the pressure and an augmentation of the distress between the present time and the time of harvest?

I do anticipate a slight increase, but only a slight increase.

8828. Have you formed any estimate, or has any estimate been formed by the Guardians, of the amount of money which will be required to carry them through from the present time up to the time of harvest, and have you any estimate of the amount of rate that is likely to be raised in that interval of time in the Union?

I am not aware of any estimate being formed as to what the probable amount will be that will be required; I know with reference to the rate uncollected of the present rate, which is a 3*s.* rate upon the Union generally, there was about 400*l.* a fortnight or three weeks ago, uncollected, and I do not anticipate their being able to collect the whole of this; and I question, in the present position of the Union, at this time of the year especially, whether another rate could be collected.

8829. Is it your opinion that, viewing the resources of that Union, there will be the power of raising a new rate between the present time and the harvest?

A rate from some of the parties in the Union might be raised; you might raise a rate from the immediate lessors; you might raise a rate on a particular Electoral Division, and you might raise a rate from some few farmers who have still some slight means left, and there are very few of that class.

8830. Would you recommend that such a rate should be levied?

No.

8831. It appears that a sum of 5,200*l.* was required to be advanced in aid of the Union of Glenties in the year ending September 1848, in addition to the total amount of rate collected, which was 3,256*l.*; do you think, from the circumstances of the Union of Glenties, that it can support itself upon its own means during the present year, without auxiliary assistance?

Certainly not; because, as I have told you, there are only 400*l.* of the last rate remaining uncollected, and I cannot expect that all that amount will be collected; I think if we collect half of it, it will be remarkably well, and so leave only 200*l.* of arrears upon such a Union, and therefore, whatever may be the expenses of the Union between this and harvest (beyond the amount of rate still collectable) must come from some extraneous source.

8832. Do you think that the pressure will be this year as great as it was in the last?

I think decidedly not; up to the present time it has been less, to a very great degree.

8833. Has there not been practically less failure of the potato crop in those Northern Unions than there has been in the West?

The failure in the potato crop of last year in the North Western Unions has been extremely slight; take the Union of Milford, that I am intimately acquainted with, living in it, and relations of mine having property in it; in that Union the potatoes I can hardly say have failed at all this year. This time last year, in the district of Donegal, between Mulroy and Lough Swilly, I could not purchase a barrel of potatoes; this year I could purchase a hundred barrels. About a fortnight

fortnight ago there were two vessels exporting potatoes from Lough Swilly, near Rathmullan, and two from the other side, Fahan; about a month before that, when I was coming away, they were selling at from 3 *s.* 4 *d.* to 3 *s.* 6 *d.* a hundred.

8834. Is it, partially at least, to the proportionate non-failure of the potato crop in those districts that you attribute their relative well-being, as compared with the Western Unions?

There are other causes; the non-failure of the potato crop is a very important element, but I consider that we had generally, not only a potato crop but a good oat crop in the North Western districts, of which I am speaking; I also think there is a greater amount of employment given this year than there was last year; the farmers last year were alarmed at the very high prices of provisions in the year before, and fearing a recurrence of it, circumscribed, as far as possible, their number of labourers and servants last year; I will give a practical instance of this: at many of my Boards of Guardians last year, in the districts of which I am speaking, a large number of boys fit for herding cattle, and young women capable for acting as farm servants, but who had been dismissed by their masters, and could not get a place, applied for relief. This year very few of that class apply; when they do apply, in the Unions of which I speak, the Guardians mostly say, "I will get you a place;" so that not only the non-failure of the potato crop, but the disposition of farmers to give increased employment, has operated beneficially in the district to which I allude.

8835. Does not the fact of the non-failure of the potato crop afford to the farmers the means of maintaining farm servants which, in the event of the failure of the potato crop, are entirely withdrawn?

Of course that is very important; but I think there is also another cause; the farmers were alarmed at the famine prices of provisions the year before, and therefore dismissed as many of their servants as they could; but this year their fears have subsided to a very considerable extent.

8836. Is this the case at Glenties, do you say?

I am speaking of the whole district. There are other causes—migration, emigration and death. The three causes, in my opinion, are, first, the greater amount, especially of potatoes, and of all kinds of produce, available for the food of the people; secondly, the larger amount of employment afforded this year by the farmers, and also under the Land Improvement Act, in drainage, by several gentlemen who have taken loans; and thirdly, the lessening of the destitute part of the population by migration, emigration and death; that portion of the population has very considerably decreased; and, added to that, there is a considerable decrease in the number of births.

8837. When you say migration, as distinguished from emigration, where is it that the migrants go, do you think?

England and Scotland; where they go I do not know, but I know that a large number of the poorer class of cottiers have gone away, and I have often wondered as to where they could have gone to, or how they have been able to obtain support elsewhere.

8838. With respect to the emigrant class, as distinguished from the migrants, have you seen any cases or been able to discover any disposition on the part of the classes above the mere cottier and labourer, to quit the country in search of a better abode?

I have; in the district of Donegal, that I am best acquainted with, the emigration has been extremely large, and I will divide it into the three classes; one class is the better, the more energetic, the more intelligent, and the more prosperous of the farmers, who are alarmed at the state of the country; those men emigrate, selling their farms, and turning every thing they can into money in order to re-invest it as farmers in some other country; they take with them more capital than is necessary to meet the expense of their transit, in order to re-invest it in the country to which they may go, and I consider the emigration of that class to be a pure evil to Ireland, taking away not only capital, but what we want most, the energy and intelligence of such a class. Then there is another class of emigrants, there is the emigration of the sons and the younger children of farmers who, some years ago, when there was a greater

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value attached to land, would not have thought of emigrating, hoping to get divisions of it; this class now, alarmed at the depreciation in the value of the tenant-right and of the land, are anxious to leave the country, and emigrate with the hope of being able to obtain service; when they go, they only take with them what is absolutely required for their passage, and they generally at once obtain employment when they get over to the other side as servants or labourers, principally as servants; they save their wages, and they send them over, or a large portion of them, to the relatives and friends that remained at home, generally, in order to induce them to emigrate and go to them; the amount of money which, to my own knowledge, has come over, is almost incredible, and shows the great exertions the emigrants make to save it; women going over as servants send home large sums of money; I know one case where an active single female went out, and in the space of nine months she sent home 7*l.* to bring out two of her sisters. Now, the emigration of that class is a pure good to Ireland, and a pure good to the colony to which they go; it lightens our labour-market at home from a class which would otherwise be pressing on it and clinging to the land, and it benefits the colony. There is another class, which is the poor miserable cottier, who has not sufficient power or energy to enable him to obtain profitable employment abroad, where he is surrounded by a better class of able-bodied and self-sustaining labourers; but he flies from the evil to come, regardless and ignorant of what is before him; he raises what he can, and other people wanting to get rid of him assist him, merely to get rid of him; his emigration or removal is a benefit to us, but it is injurious to the place to which he goes, and checks the good accounts as to the success of emigrants which we should otherwise be likely to get, and thus by checking voluntary and wholesome emigration injures us, because a great cause of the increased emigration in reference to the district to which I allude, and what has given it the greatest impetus, has been the good accounts sent back by those who emigrated; that class discourages emigration, although we get rid of them in the mean time.

8839. Have you known any persons emigrating who have received sums of money for the good-will of the farms which they have left?

I am now speaking generally; in all the Unions with which I am connected, the tenant-right, to a certain extent, prevails, unless we might except the Unions of Sligo and Manor Hamilton.

8840. You are not speaking of Glenties?

No; generally the first class that I alluded to, the energetic and best class of farmers who go away, sell the tenant-right; the value of it as a regular marketable commodity has greatly fallen, but still they sell it; the small cottier class having no farms, but merely living under others on the con-acre system, do not sell, because they have nothing to sell; and the servant class do not sell, for they have nothing to sell; but the class whose emigration I consider injurious to the district of the country to which I am alluding dispose of their tenant-right and make great sacrifices; the consequence is, that from the large amount of land which has been thrown into the tenant-right market, they cannot, in many cases, sell the tenant-right; there is no demand for it; it has not only been reduced in value by nearly two-thirds, but they cannot in many cases sell it at all; I know several instances myself, upon properties that I am intimately acquainted with, of people most anxious to go, and they cannot get persons to purchase their tenant-right.

8841. What proportion to the rent used the purchase-money of this tenant-right to bear previously to the late depreciation in the value of it?

Until the last two or three years, supposing the rent was 5*l.* the tenant-right was supposed to be worth 50 *l.*; if you only paid 5*l.* rent, you would get 50 *l.* for your tenant-right, under favourable circumstances.

8842. That is ten years' purchase upon the rent?

Yes; I have known it to increase even beyond that; I know that that is under the mark in many instances.

8843. You have stated, that with respect to the Union of Glenties, in your judgment, it could not have been carried through last year without the extraneous relief which it received; is it your opinion that, matters remaining the same as they are, it can be carried through the present year or succeeding years, supposing the potato culture to fail?

I have

I have already stated that I consider that the Glenties Union cannot go on between this and harvest without some extraneous aid, except by striking a rate, which I think would be ruinous, and which I think it would be a very wrong policy to adopt; therefore, as far as this year is concerned, that is my answer; but as to future years, I think it entirely depends upon the exertion and the amount of labour and skill which is applied to the cultivation of the land, and what may be the result of the present year's harvest; if we have a good harvest and the potatoes grow, I consider that we shall not have the slightest necessity for any extraneous aid to Glenties next year.

8844. Supposing that event to occur, and judging of the future by your experience of the past, in relation to that Union, do you apprehend a continued periodical occurrence of possible failures at periods more or less remote, and a recurrence of the same pressure concurrently with those failures?

I consider that if the potato comes back, and that the people relapse into, or rather continue in their former indolence, want of exertion, and want of proper cultivation of the land to the extent to which it is capable of being cultivated, as they are likely to do, you will always have periodical famines depending solely upon the fluctuations of the potato crop. I have stated that before the late famine, Glenties was liable, to a great extent, to famine from the slightest failure or fluctuation in the potato crop; the number of consumers came so near the utmost amount of food which the potato was capable, under the most favourable circumstances, of producing.

8845. Is the operation of the present Poor Law, as applicable to a district like Glenties, that of merely supporting destitution when it arises, or has it the tendency of removing the causes from whence that destitution proceeds?

In a well-managed and sound Poor Law the operations of it ought to be to take up the parties who are completely destitute, and preserve life in cases of extreme destitution; excessive out-door relief would tend to aggravate the circumstances of the country, by making the people rely less than they even do at at present on their own exertions.

8846. Does the Poor Law act upon the relief of distress, or the removal of the causes which produce the distress?

Upon the relief of distress, and it re-acts upon the causes.

8847. In what way does it re-act upon the causes?

By relieving distress it preserves those individuals who are relieved; it carries them over a period of considerable suffering, and may so conduce to render them capable of being self-sustaining members of society afterwards.

8848. In your judgment, has it produced that effect of making them self-sustaining individuals?

I think it has in some cases where it has been properly administered; in cases of the abuse of relief, it would not.

8849. In which of the two categories would you put the principle of out-door relief?

The principle of out-door relief I would put of course in the category which was likely rather to increase the causes of destitution; there may be restrictions under which it may be managed; it is one of those dangerous remedies that in peculiar cases may be necessary, but still the tendency of it is not to remove the causes, but to aggravate them.

8850. In your experience, before the passing of the Extension Act, when the relief was altogether, by law, confined to in-door relief, were there many cases of inadequacy of relief in the well-managed Unions?

I do not think there were.

8851. Did the failure of the potato crop, in your judgment, in reference to that failure, and a scarcity almost amounting to a famine, render the extension of in-door relief to out-door relief necessary?

There were some parts of Ireland in which, from the failure of the potatoes, it would have been impossible to have supported the people by in-door relief; no Workhouses could have maintained them; to meet the peculiar famine, and to preserve life, the relief must have been extended.

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8852. Has it had that effect, or has there been within your knowledge, or as reported to you, a considerable loss of life from destitution, even under the administration of out-door relief?

I can only speak of my own district, and I do not believe that any loss of life has taken place from absolute destitution, want of food: there may have been privations which ultimately endangered and shortened life; numbers of people, not wishing to come into the Workhouse or to obtain relief at all, struggled against it so long, that they injured their constitutions, and rendered themselves liable to be cut off by diseases of many kinds, and I believe that a large amount of mortality has taken place on that score; a great number of people have struggled to the very utmost, and so as to endanger their health, I consider; but at the same time, I think the amount of out-door and in-door relief available in my district was quite sufficient to preserve life, if timely accepted; I do not know any instances to the contrary which have come before me.

8853. Comparing the condition of the people in those Unions which are under your management, where no out-door relief is given, with their condition in those in which out-door relief prevails, under which of the two systems do you think the best and safest description of relief is administered?

Where it is confined to in-door relief; the very non-commencement of out-door relief has had a beneficial effect; in the Union of Letterkenny we never gave any out-door relief, and in the Union of Dunfanaghy we never gave any out-door relief.

8854. In your judgment, is the expectation of out-door relief, procurable by law, a cause which brings a great pressure at times upon the Workhouses, for the purpose of filling them up, and compelling the Guardians to resort to out-door relief?

Decidedly so; in many cases attempts have been made to force the out-relief order by a pressure upon the Workhouse which it would not bear, but the very moment it was found that auxiliaries were taken, and that they would not get out-door relief, they went away.

8855. Is it, in your judgment, expedient that the system of out-door relief should be preserved as an exceptional case applicable in time of famine, and not made part of the general system of Poor Law administration?

I consider that there are certain districts in certain parts of Ireland where it is absolutely necessary at present, in consequence of the effects under which we are labouring from a succession of famine, to give out-door relief if you mean to save life; assuming that life is to be preserved, I say it is absolutely necessary to give it. Then the question arises whether it should be connected with the permanent Poor Law, or whether it should be as an exception to the existing law; from the best consideration which I have given to that subject, and from seeing the working of the Labour Rate Act and the Soup Kitchen Act, I am of opinion that it is better to have it joined with the permanent Poor Law, to be only used as a *dernier ressort*, in extreme cases, where it is absolutely necessary to preserve life. I think that the whole efficiency of the administration of the law depends upon the restriction of that relief under the second section of the Act, that is, the full order to the able-bodied, as far as it is possible, consistently with the preservation of life; but I believe that cases will arise, have arisen, and are now in existence, which render the application of that order necessary.

8856. Do you consider the present case to be a normal state of things in Ireland, or do you consider it as being one of the exceptional cases?

One of the exceptional cases, of course.

8857. With the cessation of that exceptional case, do you think that the practice ought to cease?

Certainly; I do not think that Ireland would be safe; I do not think that the United Empire would be safe, if the practice was continued beyond the exceptional case; I myself would not purchase property in a district in Ireland, where I considered it likely that it would be necessary to have frequent recourse to that order.

8858. But if it remains as part of the permanent statute law of the land, will there not be a tendency more or less active on the part, both of the recipients who

who claim out-door relief, and of parties who may be led by a false economy to consider that the cheaper system, *per caput*, is the best system, to resort to out-door relief in preference to in-door relief; will not there be a continued pressure upon the in-door system, if out-door relief is a part of the permanent law?

There may be a pressure, but I consider that the Boards of Guardians, and the local parties administering the law throughout the country, seeing the dangerous results of out-door relief, would use efforts sufficient to support the central authority against any undue pressure of that sort. I find a strong tendency in the respectable part of the community to prevent and check out-door relief by applying the Workhouse test, as far as possible; and therefore I should hope, and do think, that the pressure would not be such as to endanger the undue extension of that order; more or less abuse will always arise, and always be connected with out-door relief; that is the necessary consequence of it.

8859. When you administered your functions in the Western Unions, had you to deal with Unions on the whole much larger than those which you have now under your superintendence?

I have dealt with every sized Union, from the smallest, Castlederg, to the largest, which is Ballina.

8860. In reference to those larger Unions, do you consider that the Workhouse test can be effectively applied?

The Workhouse test could not possibly be effectively applied in Ballina, unless you put auxiliary Workhouses, or built new Workhouses in different parts of the Union; the present amount of Workhouse accommodation in Ballina, at least when I was in charge of it, would be totally unfit to act now as an adequate test, in respect of out-door relief.

8861. Independently of the amount of relief which they gave, was not the distance of the Workhouses in those larger Unions in itself an impediment to the application of the principle as a test, and also a hindrance to it in the way of administering relief?

Decidedly so.

8862. You are aware of the recommendation which has been given by the Boundary Commissioners to divide the larger Unions; would any beneficial result attend such division of unions, unless there were new Workhouses erected in the new Unions so created?

I have already directed your Lordship's attention to Workhouses where the proper classification and arrangements could not be made; the proper classification I think very much depends upon the nature of the building into which you put the paupers; therefore if you create auxiliaries or erect temporary buildings capable of allowing proper classification, it will answer the same purpose.

8863. Would the mere subdivision of the Unions, without adding Workhouses in the new Unions, be productive of any good whatever?

Certainly not to the extent that would be produced otherwise; we can appoint committees now, under the powers of the Poor Law Amendment Act, to act in that kind of way beyond six miles from the Workhouse.

8864. Were you ever called upon to make any inspection of any of the Western Unions, and to make a report upon them?

Yes.

8865. In what year, and what Union were you called upon to inspect?

In the latter end of February or early in March 1848, I was called upon by a letter from the Commissioners to go to the Unions of Castlebar and Westport, which had been under my charge so long, stating, as I recollect, that the Commissioners were alarmed at the increased number receiving relief, and instructing me to report to the Commissioners as to what I considered the causes, and also to examine witnesses, such as, from my local knowledge, I thought likely to give good testimony, and to forward the evidence, with a special report to the Commissioners, which I did in March 1848.

8866. Have you a copy of that report, or could you procure it?

Yes; it was made to the Poor Law Commissioners; I have a copy of it, and

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I will write to the Commissioners, and ask to have a copy forwarded to the Committee.

8867. Has it ever appeared in any document presented to Parliament?
It has not, that I am aware of.

8868. Did you make the inquiry, upon oath?
I did.

8869. In many of these Unions in the west, and I am sorry to say in other parts of Ireland likewise, there is a very considerable increase appearing upon the debt of the Unions?
Yes.

8870. Even supposing that a provision could be made in those distressed Unions for the current expenses, do you think that the Poor Law can be satisfactorily administered if a large amount of debt remains outstanding?
I am convinced it cannot, and consider the debts as one of the greatest possible obstacles. In my experience I have never been able satisfactorily to manage a Union in debt; I have never seen nor heard of one in debt being properly managed.

8871. The debts at Ballina amounted in January 1849 to 18,360*l.*; even supposing the current expenses of Ballina to be provided for by some means or another, in what respect do you think that that amount of debt of 18,000*l.* would impede the good management of the people of Ballina?
I presume that the law gives the creditors some means of recovering their money from a corporate body, and that they may seize upon the funds of that Union, and so try and pay themselves; I cannot conceive that for such an evil as that, the law does not provide a remedy; and therefore if the Guardians merely get a certain amount of funds sufficient to meet their current expenses, and if they are forced to pay their debts out of it, the deficiency thereby created will have to be made up.

8872. Have you any doubt that, if contractors, to whom a large amount of debt is outstanding, are induced to forbear in the recovery of their debts, in consideration of their continuing their current supplies, and obtaining payment for their current supplies, the result will be an increased charge for those current supplies disadvantageous to the Union?
I have no doubt of it. In many Unions under my charge I have seen that Unions in debt have to pay a much higher charge than Unions that are not. I remember the case of Carrick-on-Shannon and the Boyle Unions; Carrick-on-Shannon was very much in debt, and the difference in the prices of the contracts at Carrick, as compared to Boyle, was surprising. I cannot state exactly the difference, but it left an impression on my mind as a very strong example of the consequences of being in debt.

8873. Is not there also this consequence, that there may not be so effective a check upon the quality of the food furnished by such a contractor as there would be if there were a free power of dismissing him and seeking the supplies elsewhere?
Of course; you cannot look at the article, or be too nice about its quality, if you owe the man money, and trust to his goodness to supply you from day to day.

8874. Is it a matter of necessity and of duty on the part of the Guardians to watch with great care and vigilance the quality of the food which is supplied for the paupers?
Of course; I think it is one of their highest duties.

8875. So that, no less upon the cost of the article than upon the quality of the food, a largely-indebted Union is subject to a disadvantage, which presses upon the rate-payer in the one case, and upon the pauper in the other?
Decidedly; it is productive of pure evil in every sense.

8876. We have before us an account of the 21 most necessitous and distressed Unions in Ireland, beginning with Ballina and ending with Westport. It appears that the amount of rate which was collected in the course of the last year, most of those being under the guardianship of Vice-Guardians, was 199,000*l.*, in aid of

of which the sum of 237,000 *l.* was advanced by the Government and the British Association. Is it your judgment that, taking those figures, the Poor Law, as it stands, would, without that extra aid, have been sufficient to protect human life in those Unions?

Without extra aid I am certain it could not; but I cannot say as to whether that amount was required or not. There may have been an amount of relief given in certain Unions that was not required, and I am inclined to think there was.

8877. The question goes to the general principle, could those Unions without extra aid have supported their poor last year?

Certainly not.

8878. None of them could?

None of those Unions that I am aware of.

8879. Therefore, so far as relates to the support of human life, the Poor Law, taken by itself, within that district, would have been inadequate for the purpose for which it was passed?

The Poor Law could not have raised the necessary amount of funds; the law gave the power to raise them; but you could not raise it when that amount was not to be had; you could not raise the necessary amount in a Union where 40 *s.* in the pound was required, double the amount of the net annual value. But that does not affect the law; it is caused by the inability of the country.

8880. The question refers to the law as bearing upon the country. Would that law, in a country where the resources of the people were such as you know them to be, have been sufficient to have supported the people without the extra aid?

No; it would not.

8881. Take the Union of Glenties; are the Electoral Divisions in Glenties in a very different condition one from the other?

There is one Electoral Division in Glenties which is different very considerably from the others.

8882. In what respect does it differ?

There is one Electoral Division in the Union of Glenties, the Electoral Division of Fintown, which is in better circumstances than any of the other Electoral Divisions; in fact, I might say it is the only solvent Electoral Division out of the whole Union.

8883. Is Killybegs in that Union?

It is.

8884. What is the state of Killybegs Electoral Division?

Killybegs this year is remarkably well, it is getting better; I was speaking to the Receiver for the Murray property last Friday, and he told me that the amount of out-door relief this year in Killybegs was remarkably little, hardly any; that it had been reduced wonderfully.

8885. How many Electoral Divisions are there in Glenties?

Thirteen.

8886. How many of those 13 do you think would be in a condition to contribute, by a Union rate in aid, to the distress which might exist in any of the other Electoral Divisions of Glenties?

And to supply their own current expenses besides?

8887. Yes?

This year none; but it would depend very much upon the harvest next year.

8888. We are dealing with the present year?

The present year there is not a single one of them that could support itself, except the Electoral Division of Fintown, and there you can only get it by coming upon the immediate lessor, for the holdings are almost all under 4 *l.*, and you could only do it by taxing that gentleman as long as he has any property or means.

8889. That is the property of Mr. Hamilton, of St. Ernans?

It is.

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8890. The valuation of Fintown appears to be 425 *l.*, and the valuation of the entire of Glenties is 16,000 *l.*?
Yes.

8891. Is the Electoral Division of Fintown, which is valued at merely 425 *l.*, the only Electoral Division in that Union which, in your judgment, could contribute at present to a Union rate in aid?
That is the only Electoral Division; there is another Electoral Division in that Union, Mullaghderg, which has a lower valuation than Fintown, but Fintown is the only Electoral Division that could contribute.

8892. Is not that a part of the country which has been very much improved, and in which a great deal of individual capital has been laid out by the proprietor?
It is.

8893. If that had not been done, would that Division have been in a condition to contribute to a rate in aid if it had been left in an unimproved state?
It was always better than the other Electoral Divisions, because the amount of population, as compared to the means of subsistence, was not so great in it. The Fintown Electoral Division is not on the coast, and the people were not congregated in such numbers in particular parts of it; it is a mountain district, and there are large tracts of pasture land, cows grasses, as they call them, attached to each farm, and it was never in so bad a state as the other Electoral Divisions; but the circumstances of the employment being given, of course renders it much better.

8894. Independently of the improvement that has taken place, and if there had been only that relative superiority which you have already described, do you think that that in itself would have enabled Fintown to bear a Union rate in aid in addition to the maintenance of its own poor?
Yes; I think it might have borne a portion of a small Union rate, perhaps; but that is a matter upon which I cannot speak positively.

8895. Would it have borne a Union rate on its valuation, do you think, of ten per cent.?
No, I think not; it would have borne it in this sense, the immediate lessor would have had to pay it. Almost all the occupiers are valued under 4 *l.*; I do not suppose there are 20 people in the Electoral Division valued over 4 *l.* The surplus produce of the land, after paying for the cropping and labour of the ground and supplying food for the people, would not have done it.

8896. Supposing 10 per cent. to have been raised upon Fintown on a valuation of 425 *l.* a year, it would only have amounted to 42 *l.*; would the 42 *l.*, if it had been exacted or paid, either from the property of the individual, his private resources, or the produce of the soil, have afforded any practical remedy for the distress of the 43,000 inhabitants in the remainder of the Union?
It would not.

8897. Do you think that the Union of Glenties is capable of paying an additional 6 *d.* rate, or 2½ per cent., which would be in the character of a national rate?
I wish your Lordships to understand this: I think that the capability of Glenties Union to pay rates depends entirely upon the amount of capital, labour and skill which you apply to the land; if it was cultivated up to the amount of which it is capable, it would be quite sufficient to support the population, and pay the necessary rates; but I think we must not expect the present occupiers so to cultivate it.

8898. Do you think that it is possible to introduce new cultivation into that land with that amount of 43,000 population upon a rental of 16,000 *l.* a year?
I do; and I should have no hopes of the country, if I did not think so.

8899. Supposing the population continues at 43,000, which is the present population, upon a valuation of 16,000 *l.* a year, do you think it possible to introduce improved agriculture so as to raise a potato-bred population into a pig-fed or a cereal-fed population?
Certainly not, with the present class of persons occupying the land and cultivating it in the way they do; but I say that the Union is quite capable of being cultivated,

cultivated, by the proper application of industry and capital and skill, up to the point of supporting its population.

8900. What time and what capital would be required in order to bring it into that state?

That is a question which, of course, I cannot determine; that is a matter of opinion; but until that time comes, it cannot support itself without extraneous aid being extended continuously or occasionally.

8901. In its present condition, do you think that that Union will be capable, in addition to supplying the wants of its own poor, to contribute $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to a national rate for the relief of the destitution generally?

Decidedly not.

8902. Do you think that the same observation applies to those Unions which could not be supported last year without a large amount of extra aid, those Unions having required extra aid to the extent of 237,000 *l.* in aid of rates collected under 200,000 *l.*?

I think the same answer applies to the Unions of Castlebar, Ballinrobe, Galway, and the whole of that district; I think the present mode of cultivation of the land will not allow it to bring forth such an increase as to support the population without extra aid; the return of the potato crop may enable that district to do it to a certain extent for a certain time; but there will, in such a case, always be recurring from time to time the effects of the tendency of the population to outstrip the means of subsistence; I also think, from the knowledge which I have of the West of Ireland, as well as of Glenties, that the West of Ireland is equally capable of producing sufficient to support its population if the land was properly cultivated.

8903. Is not the division in Rundale and the subdivision and minute occupation of farms very common in that western country?

It is.

8904. Do you think it possible, consistently with that minute subdivision of land, that any improved agriculture could be introduced which would support the people upon grain, who have been accustomed to live upon potato?

I think not; but in Donegal, where the Rundale system, when I knew it 10 years ago, existed to a very considerable extent, it hardly exists in any case now; the Rundale system, that of holding a patch here and a patch there, prevented the possibility of those people cultivating the land at all, as it should be cultivated.

8905. What is the condition of the Gwidore district now, in relation to the distress of the people?

The condition of the Gwidore district, in my opinion, is this: the Rundale system has been abolished; they have been put upon their own farms; but just as this primary element of their ultimate improvement took place, the famine came, and they were not able to take advantage of their improved position. They were taken out of the bad system in which they held their lands after a great deal of time, expense and labour on the part of Lord George Hill; but the famine then came, and they are not now in an improved condition, as far as their physical, moral or pecuniary state is concerned.

8906. In relation to the case of the Electoral Division of Fintown and the case of Gwidore, supposing the extreme amount of rate that could by possibility be exacted to be taken out of that soil, would it be increased to a considerable extent by reason and in consequence of the capital and skill and enterprise which the proprietors have manifested in the management of those estates?

Decidedly.

8907. Supposing that principle to exist, and that ultimately, by the pressure of the rates, the rate was only collectable upon those parts of the country where skill, labour and capital had been employed, what effect, in your judgment, would that system produce, either in checking or in promoting the application of capital?

It would have a very considerable effect in checking it.

8908. Has the apprehension of an increase of rate, more especially as connected with the administration of out-door relief, had any effect, to your obser-

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vation, in alarming farmers and proprietors, and checking the application of capital?

Considerable.

8909. Can you give us any instances which would illustrate that, and in what parts of the country you have seen it?

I have known instances in the county of Mayo, just before I gave up the charge of that district, where a considerable number of farmers, who, I think, were alarmed at the state of the times and the fear of the rates, deserted their farms and gave up their land, and caused that description of emigration which I have stated I consider injurious to the country. I have known considerable tracts of land given up; I remember an instance in the county of Mayo, in the Union of Swineford, where a large number of persons gave up their holdings, and the proprietor of that district applied to a friend of his in Scotland, to know whether he could get a farmer there to take the land; his friend wrote to him to say, that he knew a man who would come over and look at it, if he would guarantee the expense, whether there was a bargain or the reverse. He came over, looked at the land, asked the tenure, and being satisfied as to the tenure (I forget the exact amount which he offered), he said, "I will give," I will say, "15*s.* for it;" the proprietor said, "I got 23*s.* from the former occupiers, and I thought you would have given me more, having a large farm, and being able to take more out of the land;" he said, "Just because you got 23*s.* from those parties before, I will only give you 15*s.* now; they have not cultivated the land properly, and they have reduced the value of it; it is intrinsically good ground, but it is almost a *caput mortuum* now; it is exhausted; but put that land into good heart for me, and give me the appliances of my business, and I will not only give you 15*s.*, but I will give you 28*s.*"

8910. Can you state the number of acres?

I cannot.

8911. Twenty-eight shillings for an Irish acre?

I am not sure as to the amount.

8912. The question referred to any case of discouragement which the possible amount of extension of rate might have produced, so as to indispose persons to take land or to apply capital to the improvement of land?

I can only state, that I know of parties who have gone away from the country, from a fear of the rates, that otherwise would not have gone; and I believe also, that farmers and capitalists who would take that land, are deterred from coming in by a fear of the rates.

8913. Supposing a Union to consist of ten Electoral Divisions, and that the rates go on augmenting; is not the pressure of those rates likely to lead to the bankruptcy of the poorer Electoral Divisions, and the poorer Townlands, in fact?

Certainly.

8914. Then, supposing a second rate succeeding the first, must not that second rate be levied upon the portion of the property which is still left in an improved and improvable state?

It would necessarily follow that if one part of the Union is not able to pay, the rate could only be levied on the other part that was able to pay.

8915. Then supposing a repetition of this process; supposing a repetition of rates upon Glenties, so as to exhaust the means of all parts of it, except the most improved, would not it ultimately throw the whole of the rates upon Fintown?

It would ultimately have the effect of making Fintown the only Electoral Division capable of paying rates; it would lead to the present occupiers of the land being driven out, and to a class of persons coming in in their place, who would be able to cultivate the soil to the full amount that it is capable of producing.

8916. But suppose persons are obliged to desert the cultivation of the soil, from a want of security in the benefit of the cultivation, by reason of the amount of taxation; would not that be a bar to a new cultivator, as it had been a bar to the old cultivator?

Certainly, if he considered that the surplus, which he would otherwise have for himself, would be taken from him by taxation, it must deter him.

8917. It

8917. It appears from the evidence, that a great deal of land is now waste and unoccupied in these districts; do you connect that waste and want of occupation in the district of Clifden, amounting to 9,000*l.* a year out of 19,000*l.* a year, with the apprehension of the pressure of the rate upon that district?
I think it is one of the causes.

8918. The Union of Clifden is not one of those at present under your charge?
No, nor has it been since the failure of the potato; since the end of 1846.

8919. Do you think that the fixing of a maximum beyond which no rate could be levied, would have a tendency to restore confidence to the farmers, and induce them to resume the cultivation of the land?
If they thought that the maximum really would not be exceeded, if they thought that the maximum would be a *bonâ fide* maximum, it would.

8920. Assuming that that maximum was not to be exceeded, are you able to inform the Committee what, in your opinion, would be the amount of maximum likely to have that effect; what amount of maximum they would think themselves able to pay?
I should think that that would very much depend upon the different circumstances of each district, and as to what a person thought were the inherent qualities of the soil; what surplus there might be after the labour and seed.

8921. Generally speaking, in the districts under your superintendence?
Generally speaking, it should be low at the present time, until there was an increased amount of productiveness of the land, until the amount of labour and skill applied to it would enable the land to produce a greater amount of surplus.

8922. What amount of maximum could be adopted in those districts, without operating as an obstacle or prohibition to parties undertaking the cultivation of those lands, speaking generally, as applied to the distressed Unions?
I think that any amount of maximum greater than 5*s.* or 7*s.* would have the effect of preventing it; I do not mean at all to be supposed to entertain such a view myself as that a maximum would have the effect of inducing me, if I were a farmer, to invest money merely upon the security of a maximum; I doubt very much whether the maximum would have that effect; I think, perhaps, the maximum would be the minimum; but looking at what the parties could pay out of the lands, I should think that the maximum in those districts should be very low if it was intended thereby to induce persons who took that view of the question, and considered that the maximum would really be a maximum and kept up to that point, to cultivate those farms, it should be low, otherwise it would not have the effect of inducing parties to invest their money.

8923. Are you prepared to state what?
I have said 5*s.* or 7*s.*; I should say 7*s.*, perhaps; the question does not involve any opinion of mine as to a maximum.

8924. You have stated 7*s.*; do you think that 7*s.* could be imposed with safety upon the Union, for instance, of Glenties, where at present the whole amount of the valuation, as divided amongst the population, gives but 7*s.* 3*d.*?
I am speaking generally of the district; I restricted the subject, in the first instance, by stating that it would depend very much upon the nature of the district; I think what might be a maximum to induce a person to invest capital in one place, would not do it in another.

8925. Then is it your opinion that 7*s.* would not answer for the Union of Glenties?
It is.

8926. Do you think that 7*s.* could be imposed as the maximum upon the Union of Dunfanaghy, where the whole valuation, divided over the population, gives exactly 11*s.* 4*d.* per head?
I think that the maximum might be put upon Dunfanaghy, but I do not think it would have the effect of inducing persons with such a maximum as that to take land and cultivate it.

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8927. Take Westport, where it amounts to only 10 *s.* per head; do you think that with the imposition of 7 *s.* as a maximum, the land would be likely to continue in a state of cultivation?

As a maximum, the maximum of 7 *s.* on Westport would not be such as to induce a man to go in, he saying, "I know that I must first pay that amount out of the surplus of this land before I can get any profits;" I think he could not, from my recollection of the Union.

8928. The maximum would be, not that he should know that he would have to pay so much, but that he should know that he would have to pay no more?

That puts it in a different point of view.

8929. Is it your opinion, with your general knowledge of the state of the Unions in Ireland, that if a maximum of 7 *s.* were imposed, that maximum would be absolutely required to be raised?

That is one of my objections to the maximum, that it would become a minimum; that it would have that tendency.

8930. You are perfectly conversant with the present mode of raising the rates in the different Electoral Districts?

I know the law.

8931. You know the mode of collection of the rates?

I am acquainted with the powers that the law gives for collecting rates, but they may be applied in a different way in different districts not under my own charge; I know the mode in my own district.

8932. When a farmer or any rate-payer owes a certain sum of money to the poor-rates, if he neglects to pay the amount, what measures are resorted to in order to collect the rate?

His goods are distrained, either by the collector under his own warrants, or under a warrant granted by the magistrates in petty sessions or at quarter sessions.

8933. What is it usually that is distrained?

Any property which they find on the premises; if they can get cattle, they generally take that in preference; as it is more easily taken away.

8934. They seize the cattle?

Yes.

8935. Do they seize the furniture in the houses of the individuals?

In some instances they do; but comparatively few instances of that kind have come under my practical knowledge.

8936. Do they seize, for instance, the seed which is intended to be put into the ground for a future crop?

No case of that kind has ever come under my knowledge; whether it has been done or not, I cannot say.

8937. Do they ever seize the clothes of a party with a family?

I am not aware of that case either.

8938. You have stated that it is usually the practice to seize the cattle of the rate-payers; what is done with the cattle when they are seized?

They are impounded; generally speaking they settle the matter before the cattle go away, when they see that they are determined to take them; if not, they are put in the pound and then sold.

8939. In such a Union as Glenties, have they not been most usually sold?

No; I have known very few instances; I do not remember a case in the Union of Glenties where they absolutely came to be sold; I have known very few instances in my experience, even since the heavy rates came on; since I have had my present district, which is comparatively very much better than the western district, I have known very few instances where recourse has been had to a sale; in fact, I remember but one.

8940. In many instances do you not believe that the Poor-rates have been paid out of the capital of the rate-payer, and not out of his profits?

Two or three years ago it was so, when they had capital, but very few of them have capital now to pay it out of.

8941. Has it not been one of the effects of these heavy rates that the capital has disappeared?

Certainly; they must have paid them in money, or their stock must have been taken, or their goods.

8942. Then, are you of opinion that the capital of the rate-payers generally has disappeared?

It has, of course, been affected very considerably by the heavy rates, what capital they had.

8943. Is it not your opinion that as the capital of the rate-payers has diminished, they have been in proportion deprived of the means of improving their holdings?

Decidedly; and the great evil in the poorer districts is the want of capital on the part of farmers to employ the people.

8944. Is not this, then, one cause why the land is falling out of cultivation, or why it is cultivated worse than it previously was?

In my district there is no land falling out of cultivation, from that or any other cause; there is, and always was, land very badly cultivated, but there is no land deserted in any instances that I practically know of.

8945. But you have stated already that the capital of the rate-payers has disappeared; if the capital of the rate-payers has disappeared, is it likely that they will have the power of cultivating as well when they have no capital, as at the time when they possessed a certain amount of capital?

Of course, capital is required, as well as skill, for the proper cultivation of the land, and if the amount of capital is lessened, you take away one of the principal means of proper cultivation; one of the causes of the non-productiveness of the soil in Ireland is the want of a sufficient amount of capital applied to it.

8946. Then is it to be understood, that it is your opinion that one of the operations of the Poor Laws, by depriving the rate-payer of the amount of capital which he previously possessed, has been to deprive him of the means of cultivating the ground to the same extent as previously?

In the districts where a very heavy rate is in existence, it must necessarily have that effect.

8947. Supposing the present state of things to continue in Ireland, and the out-door relief, which under the circumstances you have stated to be the inevitable consequence of the present famine system, to be continued, all other matters remaining unchanged, what do you think will be the consequence upon the social condition of the distressed parts of Ireland?

The complete confiscation of property; the land will be thrown out of cultivation, and occupiers and proprietors will be completely ruined.

8948. Supposing the rates to reach to such an amount as to absorb the profit that could be derived from the cultivation of the land, is it proper to conceive that any persons will cultivate it?

Certainly not.

8949. What do you consider will be the operation upon the interests of England, by such a state of things existing in a large portion of Ireland?

I have already stated that I think not only Ireland, but the United Empire would not be safe under such a state of things; with such a sore as that existing in the West of Ireland no community could be safe.

8950. Do not you consider that the tendency of such a state of things will be to produce an increasing and dangerous pauper migration of the suffering and starving Irish into the labour-market of England?

I do.

8951. Supposing, under those circumstances, any well-regulated system of colonial emigration were applied to Ireland, what effect, in your judgment, would that produce upon the migration of the Irish into England?

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A good system of colonial emigration would only send the parties away that were capable of self-sustaining themselves in the colony to which they go.

8952. Supposing that those parties had not the means, or were not afforded facilities, for going to the colonies, would they, in your judgment, under the circumstances of destitution assumed, find a refuge in England?

They would try to find a refuge in England; they would go there; they must necessarily go somewhere; they cannot remain where they are, unless relieved by an enormous amount of continuously increasing rates, or death.

8953. Supposing the rates in those distressed Western Districts to be such as to absorb the means of the property of that country, what effect will that produce upon the neighbouring districts of Ireland where the means still continue unexhausted?

It would gradually extend itself; I believe that the tendency of it would be to extend itself from one part of the country to the other; one part of the country cannot prosper while the other is in such a state, it is impossible; it affects the whole country.

8954. Those causes continuing unaltered, would not their tendency be finally, as an ultimate result, if the circumstances were unchanged, to absorb the whole capital of Ireland, and to extend the pauperism of the worst districts gradually, but surely, so as to absorb the property of the better districts?

It would ultimately have that effect if carried on to the excess of which it is capable, and to which it has a tendency to grow unless checked.

8955. The ultimate result of that would be finally to disgorge that amount of pauperism upon England itself?

Of course it would affect England, as a part of the United Empire, generally speaking.

8956. Have you been able to observe any effect produced upon the minds, the habits and morals of the people, by the system of public works and soup-kitchen relief given antecedently to the passing of the Extension Act?

I have; and I think that the effects of the failure of the potato crop, and I may say, almost consequent famine, upon the minds, habits and morals of the people, from the large amount of relief necessarily given to sustain life, has been as injurious to their moral state as the famine was to their physical state; I think the effect on the moral state of the people has been very alarming.

8957. Has it loosened the social ties of domestic life and of consanguinity between parent and child, and other individuals bound to assist and support each other?

It has; and that in a country where those ties formerly existed very strongly.

8958. Has that shown itself previously even to the present administration of the Poor Laws, showing that the mischief had been antecedently created?

It has; and it is one of the causes which, I think, prevented the decrease of destitution this year, in some districts, as compared to others; the evil effects of out-door relief have not been so great in some districts as in others.

8959. And amongst those protections you would assign the reluctance to adopt out-door relief until the very last moment, when it appeared inevitable from the pressure?

Certainly; I consider out-door relief, under the second section of the order, a remedy that is only justifiable or safe, in the strictest sense of the word, when required to preserve life, when every other means has been tried and exhausted.

8960. Generally speaking, have the rates been honestly collected in your districts?

Generally speaking, they have; and strange to say, the large rates have been collected better than the small ones; I had greater difficulty in collecting a rate of 5 *d.*, some time ago, before the potato failure, than I have now in collecting large sums. In the Union of Milford, where there has been a rate of 5 *s.* 9 *d.* on the Electoral Division of Glinsk, and 6 *s.* 3 *d.* on Carrigart, what you might call absorbing rates in such a district, it has been nearly all paid, and there is

but

but a small amount of arrears, whereas we had great difficulty two or three years ago in collecting a fivepenny or tenpenny rate. In one of the poorest districts in the Donegal Union, Mount Charles Division, out of a seven-and-sixpenny rate, amounting to 1,766 *l.*, there was, on last Thursday, only 543 *l.* uncollected; upwards of 1,200 *l.* had been collected; a sum which I formerly had difficulty in getting off the whole Union.

8961. In those distressed districts do you attribute that difficulty to the inadequacy of the means, rather than to the disposition to resist payment?
The present arrears of rate in my district, I chiefly attribute to the want of means; the difficulty, however, which was formerly experienced in collecting the smaller rates, as compared to the present collection of large rates, shows that under a great pressure they were able to pay much more.

8962. Do you not think that that is attributable to the greater sense of obligation which is felt to meet the great pressure of calamity, than existed antecedently, when the pressure was less felt?
I cannot say that I think so; speaking generally as a class, I do not think so. With immediate lessors and respectable farmers, in some instances, it may be an element, but I think the great cause is the very active steps adopted, the knowledge of the fact that if they do not pay their rates their goods and stock will be taken from them.

8963. With respect to the valuation of the districts over which you preside, is that valuation applicable to the altered state of landed property, as exemplified by you in relation to the tenant right?
Originally the Poor Law valuations were, in very many instances, considerably below, as I consider, the fair letting value of the land; that valuation is not now so much below the fair letting value as if it had been higher at first. In some instances, I think it is now above the fair letting value, but in very few instances in my district. If you ask the question generally, I would say that the Poor Law valuation in my district is the fair letting value that a tenant would give from year to year, but there are many particular and individual cases, I dare say, where it is not; in my district the Poor Law valuation was originally very low. There was a class of valuators appointed, whose general tendency was to make the valuation remarkably low.

8964. In the better parts of the North with which you are connected, have the rates, on the whole, been satisfactorily paid?
They have, decidedly.

8965. Do you feel any anticipation that there will be a change with respect to the payment of those Northern rates if, in addition to the rate for the relief of their own poor, there is superadded a general rate for the relief of all Ireland, in the shape of a national rate?
I should think, especially in the first instance, it would add very considerably to the difficulty of the collection, but I by no means think that ultimately the respectable class of rate-payers, seeing it to be the law of the land, would not pay it.

8966. Taking in the whole of those Unions, should you feel any confidence in the levy of the rate in the best Union which you have, when, in addition to the rate for their own purposes, there was superadded 2½ per cent. for other purposes?
I have already said, that I think it would add very much to the difficulty of collection, and I am afraid that in some instances, from persons not wishing to pay that extra general rate, it would lead to delay, and the non-striking of the necessary local rates in proper time.

8967. But you do not believe that the law would not be carried out?
I believe it ultimately would be carried out in my district.

8968. Do not you think that there would be a greater disinclination on the part of the rate-payers to pay the rate generally, when they knew that they had to pay for others and not for their own people?
I think there would be a greater disinclination than there otherwise would be, when they had to pay for others and not for their own people only. The general impression in the Northern District is, that the general or rate in aid will be

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increased; that it is not likely to be only for a limited time or of a limited amount, but that it will be gradually increased, and that it will go on until it ruins them.

8969. And do you not think that it will rather tend to prevent the improvement and the cultivation of the soil *pro tanto?*

I should not go so far as saying that.

8970. *Pro tanto*, to a certain extent?

It would have a tendency towards that, to a certain extent; but that it would stop a rate-payer from cultivating and improving his land, I do not believe.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till Thursday next, Two o'clock.

V.

FIFTH REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

OPERATION OF THE IRISH POOR LAW,

AND THE

EXPEDIENCY OF MAKING ANY AMENDMENT IN ITS ENACTMENTS;

AND TO REPORT THEREON TO THE HOUSE;

TOGETHER WITH

THE MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Evidence taken on the
10th, 11th and 25th May 1849.

Ordered to be printed 25th May 1849.

FIFTH REPORT.

BY THE LORDS COMMITTEES appointed a SELECT COMMITTEE to inquire into the OPERATION of the IRISH POOR LAW, and the Expediency of making any Amendment in its Enactments; and to report to The HOUSE; and to whom leave was given to report from time to time to The HOUSE; and to whom were referred several PETITIONS and DOCUMENTS relating to the SUBJECT MATTER of the Inquiry:—

ORDERED TO REPORT,

THAT the Committee have met, and further considered the Subject Matter referred to them, and have examined several Witnesses in relation thereto; and have directed the further MINUTES OF EVIDENCE taken before them, up to this time, to be laid before your Lordships.

25th May 1849.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

LIST OF WITNESSES.

Die Jovis, 10° Maii 1849.

Lieutenant-Colonel Edward Archer - - - - - 903

Die Veneris, 11° Maii 1849.

Mr. John Holden - - - - - - - - - 925

Die Veneris, 25° Maii 1849.

The Hon. Edward Turner Boyd Twiselton - - - 943
Joseph Bewley, Esquire - - - - - - - - 947
Thomas William Clinton Murdoch, Esquire - - - 969

Die Jovis, 10° *Maii* 1849.

The LORD STEWARD in the Chair.

Lieutenant-Colonel EDWARD ARCHER is called in, and examined as follows :

8971. YOU are a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Army upon half-pay?
Yes.

8972. You have, I believe, for some years been occasionally resident in Ireland, during your absences from your regimental duties?
I have.

8973. In what part of Ireland have you lately resided?
In the county of Galway, to the westward of the town of Galway.

8974. I think with your brother-in-law, Mr. O'Flaherty, now Member for the town of Galway?
Yes.

8975. Did you, during your occasional residence there, direct your attention particularly to the fisheries on the West coast of Ireland?
I did.

8976. I believe you printed some observations and suggestions with reference to those fisheries?
I did.

8977. Does your subsequent knowledge and experience of that part of Ireland confirm the views which you entertained at that time with respect to the capabilities of that coast for the extension of the fisheries?
Most fully.

8978. Does it also confirm you in the views which you took of the manner in which they might be most beneficially extended?
Precisely so; and I know no other mode.

8979. Will you state, as concisely as you can from recollection, the substance of the suggestions which you made in your printed work at that time?
I can perhaps go somewhat near to them, but possibly at this distance of time I may not recollect precisely the plan; but I think the general plan which I wished to advocate was the participation of the Government Officers in an attempt to prosecute the fisheries, in consequence of the absence of certain elements which I thought were necessary to success, and which exist in this part of the world, but which are not there. I proposed that the Government should in some degree participate in the matter, till they either found that their efforts would be wholly useless, or they could surrender it to the private enterprise of those who were disposed to embark in it.

8980. Did you point out in what manner you thought that assistance and co-operation could be best afforded by the Government?
I did. I suggested that the Government should aid by instituting loan societies, to enable fishermen to provide themselves with boats and gear to take fish, and also for the establishment of stores for salt, and generally to smooth the difficulties of transit by opening roads, and so forth, so as to admit of the result of their operations finding a beneficial outlet in the country at large.

 8981. Has

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8981. Has any portion of those suggestions been since adopted by the Government?

I think, if I recollect right, there were established in three or four places stores for salt, but I do not know that any other assistance was offered in the shape of loans or in any other mode, to enable the fishermen to catch the fish. Salt alone, I understood, was provided in the event of fish being caught.

8982. The salt was provided by Government?

I think the salt and stores were provided by Government; but upon that point I am not very well qualified to speak, because it was during the time that I was absent from the country. I should state to your Lordships, that had I expected to be here to-day, I should have been better provided with the documents from which to give the information which your Lordships may desire.

8983. Are you aware of any fishing establishments having been formed upon any part of that coast by persons from England or from Scotland?

With respect to the sea fisheries, I only know three persons who are pursuing them with any degree of ardour or consecutiveness, or with any degree of success; but even that is to a very limited amount. With regard to the inland fisheries, there is a fishery on a property with which I have been charged, which has been in operation some considerable time, a salmon fishery.

8984. Will you state who are the parties who are engaged in the deep-sea fishery?

General Thompson has occupied himself in fishing, but not as a principal matter; it is only because the fish were there, and they were to be had, and I think to encourage the people round; to show them that there were fish, and that they were to be caught. The second person, I think, is a Mr. Blake, the son of a gentleman who located himself there some 25 years ago. The third person is the public Cess Collector of the Barony who has a fishing establishment at the Isle of Boffin, off the North-western point of Galway.

8985. Have you any opportunity of knowing whether those undertakings have been successful?

I should say that they have.

8986. What description of boats do they use?

I think Mr. Blake's and General Thompson's are open boats; Mr. Hildebrand, the public Cess Collector, has decked boats of a small description, I believe; but they are very inadequate to the requirements of the deep-sea fishery on that coast.

8987. Then, in fact, none of the craft employed is of such burthen as to carry on the fishery with all the advantage which might attend it in vessels of another class?

Certainly not; they are very inadequate to the deep-sea fisheries of that part of the coast. That they are successful to a considerable amount, there is no question; but that they would be more so if the boats were better fitted to the service, there cannot be a doubt.

8988. What number of boats have those three parties, do you suppose?

I am not able to answer that question; but not more than two or three, I should suppose.

8989. It is a very small number?

Quite so; they are living upon the sea; they see the fish; indeed the fish almost invite their own capture.

8990. They have introduced no curing station, have they?

No; I think they take them to Westport.

8991. Have they found any difficulty or obstacle on the part of any of the people in carrying on their operations?

No, I think not, as far as I can understand, except the general poverty of the people and that their own limited means will not allow them to develop the thing.

8992. Is there not another difficulty, which is that of transmitting the fish thus taken to an advantageous market?

They have Westport.

8993. In

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8993. In those Western Districts, do they within themselves afford a market which would be an encouragement to the fishery upon a large scale, without the means of more convenient and rapid access to richer markets?

Doubtless that would be essentially necessary; but at the same time there is an outlet for the consumption of fish in that quarter to a far greater amount than are now caught.

8994. Is there facility for payment in a very poor country? Suppose, in place of going to Westport, they could communicate in a short time with Dublin, do not you think Dublin and the Eastern market, possibly Liverpool in addition, would afford a very different encouragement for the fisheries in the West of Ireland, to that which is afforded by Westport?

No question of it; that, if I remember, was the most salient point of view in which I looked at it.

8995. Supposing there were a Railway communication from the West of Ireland to the Eastern coast, what effect do you think that would produce upon the fisheries?

There cannot be a question about it, that it would be most beneficial.

8996. Can you believe that the fisheries of the Atlantic, bathing the Western coast of Ireland, can ever be made so extensive as either to give the means of employment to a considerable number of the people, or to afford a just remuneration to the fisherman, unless a more speedy and certain access to a richer market is afforded to them?

Certainly not.

8997. Supposing that access afforded, is it your judgment, from what you know of those seas, and the plenty to be found in them, that both occupation and food could be profitably found for any considerable portion of the peasantry of the country?

I do believe it, most decidedly.

8998. The fish is abundant and good?

There could be no better; and plenty of it.

8999. Can you give the Committee an example, from your residence there, what the prices of good fish are?

A good turbot I have purchased for one shilling.

9000. About what size?

I should suppose it would supply a dozen or fourteen persons at table. A cod-fish, which my own servant bought not long ago at the Galway market for household purposes, a very large fish, cost 7 *d.*

9001. Is any quantity of the fish caught there salted for the use of the people?

I think not; as far as I have been able to observe, the fish has generally been eaten fresh.

9002. The salting stations, which I think were established by Government, have been given up; have not they?

They have, I believe.

9003. Have they been given up in consequence of there being found no disposition on the part of the fishermen to avail themselves of them for the curing of their fish?

I am under the impression that they were given up in consequence of their inutility for the object for which they were established.

9004. You are aware that the Quakers have, on different parts of the coast, attempted to establish fishing stations?

So I have heard.

9005. Can you tell the Committee whether those stations answered the purpose intended?

I have no means of knowing; they are so far from me.

9006. Have not great difficulties been thrown in the way of the fishermen, by the Claddon fishermen?

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That was the case, I have heard; but I do not know from my own personal experience, because I reside at a distance; I have, however, heard so, and I believe it.

9007. Do you think that if any individual from England or Scotland were desirous of acquiring property on the Western coast of Ireland, for the purpose of setting up a fishery, he would find any difficulty in doing so, from the indisposition of the inhabitants to see a stranger embarking in such an undertaking?

To some extent, I believe that would be the case.

9008. In the first instance?

Yes, in the first instance.

9009. From what feelings would that opposition be likely to proceed?

I think there would be a natural feeling in the case of strangers coming in to participate in the advantages which were to be derived from that pursuit; the natives would draw the conclusion that the advantages were going from them to others; and although they do not know how to take advantage of all those circumstances which are now in their favour, still they would not be content to let them pass into the hands of others; that would be a very natural feeling, and it greatly arises from the want of general information among the population.

9010. Do you think that that feeling would be easily overcome?

There must be the concurrence of the law in any person's favour; for the people there are not so thoroughly imbued with that obedience and that submission which would justify me, sanguine as I am for the interests and the welfare of that country, in putting my hands to any thing of the sort, unless I found protection where I expected it; and that feeling, I think, has caused many persons to refrain from entering into a speculation which upon all sides is supposed to be a very favourable one.

9011. You do not think that that would be speedily overcome by the effect which such undertaking must naturally have of giving employment to a considerable portion of the fishing population there?

I think it would be overcome in time, and according to the character of those who had the matter in their hands. Either later or earlier it would be overcome; I make no question that it would be so in the end; but from the want of information among the people generally, as to their real interests, for they are not gifted in that respect, I think there would be opposition.

9012. Do you think there might be some risk to the property and to the proprietor before the resistance was overcome?

I think so.

9013. After the suffering which the people have already experienced, do you not think they would be less inclined to offer opposition than they would previously have been?

Possibly that would be the case, but still I should like to be on the safe side, and to be guarded against the possibility, because a defeat at the outset would demolish any speculation altogether. Such a pursuit injured in the beginning would settle the affair, and people would retire from it; there is a feeling of the want of security in reference to any operation of the kind, which has prevented and will prevent persons from entering into it.

9014. Have you any suggestion to offer to the Committee, as to the specific legislative means by which you think that difficulty might be overcome?

Protection is what would be required; that I think is the most essential point.

9015. By "protection," you mean the protection of the law in the preservation of property?

Yes; I dare say, in the course of this examination, your Lordships will understand more clearly what my notion of the protection of the law is.

9016. At the present time, are the people in the habit of catching a large quantity of fish on that particular part of the coast?

I am led to believe that fish are exceedingly plentiful there; and that they are caught whenever the weather permits boats to go out.

9017. When the fishermen catch a large quantity of fish, and bring the fish to land, do they find any difficulty in disposing of it; is there any demand for it?

In the instances in which I consider a large quantity is caught, the fish are taken to Galway, and even there, I am told, and I believe it to be the case, that they sometimes experience a glut.

9018. The Committee are to infer from that, that the people cannot find a market for the quantity they even now catch?

Occasionally, that I believe to be the case.

9019. Is it not in your opinion, that if there were a greater demand for fish, the people would, of their own accord, exert themselves to catch a larger quantity?

I think they would.

9020. They are, probably, obliged to throw away a great deal of fish, even after they have brought it to land, in consequence of there not being customers to buy it?

If they do not do that, they are obliged to take a less price for it than it is worth.

9021. Have you ever known in seasons of great abundance of fish being made use of as manure for the land?

I have not from my own experience.

9022. Have you heard of that having been done?

Yes, I have.

9023. Is not the West coast of Ireland extremely exposed to stormy weather?

It is exposed to stormy weather.

9024. At all seasons of the year?

By no means at all seasons of the year.

9025. In the months of July and August, you seldom have storms, have you?

In the summer months we seldom have storms; I think that the coast presents favourable occasions for refuge, with prudence.

9026. Are there many harbours of refuge on the coast?

There are many places where refuge can be obtained; at the same time prudence and skill are required.

9027. Is not the sea peculiarly deep on that coast?

I do not know that it is; the banks extend a great distance out.

9028. You think it is not peculiarly deep?

I should say not.

9029. Do not you think, on the West coast of Ireland, it requires peculiarly large vessels to fish with advantage?

Yes, I am of that opinion.

9030. Of course, a large vessel, with a large number of hands, must be a much more expensive mode of fishing, to do it effectually, than in the case of the ordinary fishing grounds?

She must be a large description of vessel, because a great quantity of the fish lie at a very considerable distance from the land; 30 or 40 miles.

9031. Therefore, the boats which you have been speaking of as belonging to the three gentlemen you have named are perfectly inadequate to go out to that distance, are they not?

Quite so.

9032. Consequently that ground never has been fished?

It never has been fished within the memory of man, I believe.

9033. If the wind is in a particular point, there is no harbour of refuge nearer than New York, is there?

If there is a strong easterly wind, that is the first port I should make for, but I should never be afraid of making Ireland even with an easterly wind.

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9034. It is reckoned a dangerous coast, is not it?
It is a boisterous coast; but with skilful men and with prudence, I do not see that there is much danger.

9035. Do you think that the price which fish fetch upon the West of Ireland would remunerate persons for laying out capital in such large boats, and manning them in such a manner?
I again repeat that, with the protection of the law, I think it might be made a very productive source of wealth.

9036. Do you mean that if that coast were really well fished, there would be a market for the fish?
With the concurrence of proper means of transit.

9037. Do you mean with the means of transit at present afforded?
To a considerable extent it would be so, even with the present means.

9038. Is there any demand whatever, except the local demand, for the fish?
I think, if the means were at the disposal of the people generally to catch the fish, there would be a greater outlet than there is now. I think there would be an outlet, adequate, in a great degree, to the necessities of the case; the fish are not caught; the people have not the means of catching them.

9039. Is it the fact that the greater part of the herrings caught upon that coast were consumed in the country?
I believe so.

9040. Has not the demand ceased since the loss of the potato?
I do not know that. I think the present condition of the country is such, that they would be very glad to eat fish even without potatoes.

9041. Are the boats good sea boats?
They are very good sea boats, but not adequate for the purpose of the deep-sea fishery.

9042. Are not you of opinion, that if this coast be so replete with fish, and so advantageous for fishing, and unoccupied by any other fishermen, the English fishermen who go to the coast of Newfoundland, and all over the world, would come and occupy this ground?
They have tried, I believe, but the opposition of the people of the country, and the absence of the protection of the law, has driven them away, as it would drive them away again.

9043. Could they not come without touching the land at all, and fish in the deep sea?
Not if it blows a gale of wind continuously; they must come to shore for shelter.

9044. And must they not have a curing station in some proximity?
No doubt; they would have the population of that part adverse to them, as they have had them already.

9045. They could not perform on board all the operations necessary in curing?
In the large vessels it could be done to a considerable extent, and that is the scheme which I have heard propounded by many persons conversant with the subject.

9046. You were, in the course of the years 1846 and 1847, in the Government employment in Ireland?
I was.

9047. Will you state in what capacity?
I was the Inspecting Officer of the Relief Committees in the counties of Westmeath and Meath.

9048. How long did you continue there?
I think I arrived in Dublin somewhere about the beginning of September, and I left at the end of the succeeding January.

9049. What

9049. What was the nature of your employment?
It was to instruct the Committees in the views of the Government, for the appropriation of the labour which was unemployed, caused by the destitution of the country.

9050. For carrying into effect what were called the Relief Works?
Yes, under the Board of Works.

9051. Of what class of persons were those committees composed?
The magistrates of the vicinity, the gentry and clergy of all denominations, and the most respectable farmers and yeomanry class.

9052. That is to say, a selection from each of those classes?
Yes.

9053. The first proceeding with respect to the Relief Works was, I believe, a baronial meeting of special sessions, convened under the authority of the Lord Lieutenant, by proclamation?
Yes.

9054. Where did those meetings generally take place?
At the Court-house of the district.

9055. Did you attend any of those yourself?
Not one; it rather lay with the other division of the officers, and who were under the Board of Works. I was not under the Board of Works; I was under the Commissary-General.

9056. Then it was after certain public works received the approbation of the committees of magistrates and others, at the extraordinary sessions held for that purpose, and were put in operation, that you took a part?
Yes, precisely so; I had to establish the fact of the amount of labour in a state of destitution, and to watch that that labour alone should benefit by the works which were in operation.

9057. And, as far as you possibly could, to prevent imposition?
Yes.

9058. Had you any power of exercising a control over the particular description of persons who were allotted to the works?
Yes; wherever I had reason to suppose that the names submitted were not such as should be placed upon the works, I had the power to say no; I was to exercise that discretionary power.

9059. Did you detect many cases of imposition?
A great many.

9060. Practised by persons whom you would scarcely have supposed to have been guilty of such an attempt?
Yes.

9061. What classes of persons do you allude to?
I have given your Lordships the construction of the committees, and without, perhaps, being more particular than that, I may say that there were as many faults in the committees as there were out of them; indeed, the committees were the persons only to authorize the employment of the people.

9062. Did you, in point of fact, find that the sons of farmers, much above a state of destitution, were in many instances sent to be employed upon those works?
In a great many cases; the instances were more than I can well remember; it was to such an extent that it was painful to witness it.

9063. Do you think this was done with the knowledge and connivance of the committees?
Most certainly.

9064. Do not you think it was frequently done by certain individuals who had influence upon those committees, but without the general knowledge of the committees?
The mischief was perpetrated both by members of the committees and by the influence of others who were not on the committees.

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9065. Will you have the goodness to name who those others were who were not on the committees?
Persons who had influence with the members of the committees.

9066. They were not of any particular class?
Of all classes.

9067. You do not mean to say that it was done by the sanction of the committee as a body, but done by individuals?
By individuals.

9068. Possessing local influence?
Yes.

9069. Are you aware that those abuses were sanctioned or countenanced by any one particular class of persons in the country more than by another, as far as came under your own observation?
No, perhaps not; I might speak of a shade of distinction, as belonging to one rather than another; but perhaps your Lordships will be satisfied without my naming any particular class.

9070. Were the Relief Committees, in point of fact, attended very considerably by the leading gentry and magistrates?
With but very few exceptions they were.

9071. You consider that all classes shared the blame, if not of directly countenancing, yet of not repressing those abuses?
To a great extent; the abuses which were committed were perpetrated by those from whom I should not have expected it; we had men of a superior description in the upper classes of society; it was very unexpected, and really painful to meet them.

9072. Do you consider that those abuses were favoured or connived at by the officers who were employed by the Government for their repression?
Most certainly not, for if any men ever did their duty, the officers of the Board of Works are fully entitled to every praise which I can give them for efficiency.

9073. They could not, of course, have such an accurate knowledge of individuals in localities with which they were previously unacquainted, as to enable them to distinguish who were persons fairly entitled to be employed?
Certainly not; the work was divided, as it were. I had the preparation of the labour, and they had the application of it; but whenever the circumstance came to their notice that persons were upon the public works, who from their circumstances were not entitled to be so, they were instantly withdrawn.

9074. Were many, under those circumstances, withdrawn?
A great number.

9075. A great many farmers were put upon the works who had a great deal of land and a great many cattle, were there not?
A great many of such persons, and their servants too.

9076. Do you consider that the works performed were of essential benefit to the localities in which they were carried on?
They were, to a certain extent; they must have been so, because the lowering of a road or opening a new one must naturally be a benefit to the community; but if I am to understand the question as implying a corresponding benefit to the public in proportion to the outlay, I should say certainly not.

9077. Or even to the locality?
In many instances not so.

9078. You do not consider that the benefit, so far as the works were performed, was at all proportioned to their cost?
Certainly not, even as a matter of convenience; but looking at it also in another light, certainly not. The congregation of men, women and children upon those works was, I think, highly detrimental to the character of the people.

9079. Was it the intention of the Government, when those works were set on foot,

foot, that they should have been performed by task-work; had you any instructions to that effect?

That was no part of my instructions; but I have still a remembrance that the Officers of the Board of Works contended for task-work, and, if I am not under an erroneous impression, the authorities declined it, until they were compelled to resort to task-work. I think that was the case, but it was not under my immediate observation.

9080. Your impression is, that the instructions were that the works should be performed by task-work?

Yes, eventually, at the instigation of the Officers of Public Works, I believe, who found they were unable to contend against the united efforts of the people to have their own way.

9081. Do you consider that the relief of destitution can, under any circumstances, be effectually combined with public utility in the carrying on of any public works?

I should wish to consider that point. I am not prepared to give your Lordships an exposition of what my opinion would be upon that subject; there is more in it than I am prepared to answer. Judging from the difficulty which attended the operations before, I should be scrupulous in giving an opinion as to the efficiency of any undertaking of a similar character now.

9082. You think that, in proportion to the expense incurred, the works performed afforded a very inadequate measure of public benefit?

Decidedly.

9083. Do you consider that, in fact, there has been more harm than good done to the landowners in the neighbourhood by the works performed?

No. I think I must restrict my reply to the amount of good effected by so large an expenditure; if so, I should say certainly not; I think that the people have benefited by the commencement of roads, though they are left unfinished. They are, so far as they extend, of some benefit.

9084. Are you aware of any instances in the counties of Meath and Westmeath, in which injury instead of benefit has been done to the landowners in the neighbourhood of the works?

No, I am not.

9085. Perhaps the roads there have been completed?

I imagine that they have. That is a civilized part of the country.

9086. But where roads have been commenced at both ends, and left unfinished in the centre, so that there has been no complete line of communication open by the formation of those roads, is not it your opinion that in such cases greater injury and damage has been done than benefit to the locality or to the landed proprietors?

Certainly not; as far as the roads extend, they are of utility.

9087. You have been, I think, for nearly a year employed as agent to the Law Life Insurance Company, who have foreclosed their mortgage upon the estates of Mr. Martin, in the county of Galway?

I have.

9088. Will you state the acreage of that property?

One hundred and ninety-six thousand acres.

9089. The property extends with some interruptions over a surface of about 50 miles?

Over 50 English miles.

9090. From Galway to the westward of Clifden?

Yes.

9091. The whole being situated in the two Unions of Galway and Clifden?

Yes.

9092. How long have you been connected with the estate?

About 10 or 11 months.

9093. By what description of persons is this estate generally tenanted?

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By very small holdings; the great bulk of the estate is in very small holdings; the occupiers of which are at 4*l.*, and under 4*l.*

9094. Are there very few large farms?
Very few large farms.

9095. Consequently the bulk of the tenants are not liable to the payment of poor-rates?
They are not liable; that is our great cause of complaint.

9096. Do you consider the valuation under which the tenants are exempted from the poor-rate, upon the whole, a fair and just one?
Certainly not, and for more reasons than one.

9097. Do you consider that a portion of those who are exempted ought, under a fair valuation, to be made liable to the payment of poor-rates?
I do.

9098. The great bulk of the poor-rates is consequently at present borne by the owner?
It is.

9099. Is there at present any arrear of poor-rates due from that property?
There is some, but not much.

9100. What amount of poor-rates has been paid by you since you have been agent to that property?
The poor-rates which I have paid have amounted, I suppose, to nearly 1,000*l.*

9101. Can you state what is the amount of arrears?
There are no arrears which are not comprised in that sum total. There is not much remaining to be paid in either of the two baronies. There is not much arrear on that estate still unpaid, nor do I think that there is any which will not be paid very soon.

9102. Do you apply that to one Union only, or to both the Unions of Clifden and Galway?
To both; one is rather more clear than the other.

9103. Which is that?
Clifden is rather more clear than the other. The circumstances of the rates of those two Unions are peculiar. I think I am justified in saying, that although not paid, they may be considered to be so, because there are funds to meet them.

9104. That amount has been paid entirely by the landlord?
By the landlord.

9105. Are you aware whether any rates have been collected from that portion of the tenants who are liable to the rates?
Yes, to some extent; but a great number are deficient.

9106. Therefore, when you speak of no rates being due from the estate, you are to be understood, that no portion of the rates due from the landlord are in arrear?
That is the way in which I should wish to be understood.

9107. Is the amount of rate due by the tenantry considerable?
No; it is not considerable, because, as I said before, the great bulk of the rates fall upon the landlord.

9108. Is no part of that estate under lease?
Yes.

9109. In the case of leases, surely the rates should, in the first instance, be paid by the tenant?
Which has not been done, because the collection has not been made.

9110. Those rates are still in arrear?
Those rates are; I am only speaking of that which I have been called on to pay.

9111. Is there a large portion of the property under lease?
I should not say a large portion; they were leases made for the occasion; some of

of them are good, and some are not good; but there are not many leases for such an enormous extent of property as that.

9112. Are they leases prior to 1843?
I believe they all of them are prior to 1843.

9113. Is the property much subdivided?
It was very much so; it is less so than it was, because people have died or gone away, and given up and washed their hands of it.

9114. Were you acquainted with this estate prior to the potato failure?
I have been acquainted with the estate, as a guest and acquaintance of Mr. Martin, and as a traveller through the country, as any other gentleman would know the property of his neighbours.

9115. Prior to the failure of the potato crop, were there any parts of that estate in which the population living upon potatoes was, in your judgment, excessive, in relation to the productive power of the soil upon which they lived?
Decidedly.

9116. Subsequently to the failure of the potato crops, do you consider that the population which was potato fed could have acquired upon their own land the means of living upon wheat or cereal food?
In a great number of instances, and to some extent, yes.

9117. Taking those holders under 4 *l.*, who have been accustomed upon the holding under 4 *l.* to support their families upon potatoes; could they, upon that holding of 4 *l.*, substitute a cereal food for their families, in the place of the root-food, the potato?
Perhaps not, because wheat is not peculiar to the country.

9118. Supposing a family holding a tenement under 4 *l.* was enabled to subsist upon a land by means of potatoes, could they have raised year by year a sufficient crop of oats or bere, or any other grain, to subsist on upon that small tenement?
I think that a great proportion of the holdings on Mr. Martin's estate are adequate to the subsistence of the families which are upon them, if they would only have recourse to the cultivation of those things of which the ground is susceptible.

9119. When you say "adequate to their subsistence," do you mean adequate to their subsistence with potato cultivation, or without it?
Without it, inasmuch as there are various other things, such as carrots and turnips, which they might grow.

9120. To which you consider the soil to be adapted?
Admirably adapted.

9121. Could the altered mode of tillage required for the cultivation of those crops which you have described, which require high farming, be carried into effect upon those small holdings; would those small holdings admit of such a rotation of crops as would make high farming profitable or practicable?
I think so.

9122. How many acres, for example, would be so?
The acreage did not, I think, enter generally into the calculation of a holding, if there was a large surface; that was not the great element of consideration.

9123. What was the element of consideration; were many of them held in common?
In some instances they were; the element of consideration was a certain sum of money, and whether it was an acre more or less, or two acres more or less, I believe that was a matter of very little consideration.

9124. Taking the class of tenants, which you have described as occupying tenements under 4 *l.* value, do you consider that a man possessed on that small spot the means of establishing a rotation of crops, the capital required, or the power of raising upon it grain food sufficient to support himself and his family?
I think, in a great many instances, with the advantage of the mountain run,

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which they always have for their cattle, and the turbary for their turf, I should say yes; with an industrial population, it might be so.

9125. Had they a great surplus during the time of their being fed upon potatoes?

They had surplus sufficient to pay a very high rent.

9126. Let us assume the general computation, that it requires three acres under a grain crop, to supply produce for human food, equal to one acre of potatoes; how is it possible to imagine, upon those small holdings, that there could be three acres of grain substituted for one acre of potatoes?

There are other things, besides grain, which might be grown.

9127. For the purpose of human food, what do you mean by those other things?

I mean different descriptions of roots.

9128. Do not those require high farming and a skilful rotation?

I believe they do.

9129. Are that class of people in any degree possessed of capital or means for such farming as would convert the potato culture of that country, into an improved agricultural cultivation of wheat crops in combination with green crops?

I think if they had given as much pains to the production of other roots as they do at this moment give to the cultivation of the potato, they would have benefited their position very materially.

9130. Is it your judgment that if they had grown turnips, for instance, in the place of potatoes, they could, out of the same surface of soil, have obtained the same amount of human food?

I am not qualified to judge of that, not understanding the relative proportion of nutriment between potatoes and other roots; but I have been always under the impression that a great portion of the holdings, if in the hands of industrious people, were adequate to the subsistence of themselves and their families.

9131. Do you think them adequate also to the provision of a surplus, in other words, to the payment of any rent, after providing for the subsistence of the people?

To a diminished amount, perhaps.

9132. Is it the case, in your judgment, that those holdings under 4 *l.*, without the potato culture, would be adequate to the support of a family as to the payment of rates and taxes, and yield a surplus to the proprietors?

I do not think so, because the holdings are far too small, and no probable success is to be anticipated as long as they continue so.

9133. In the event of making them larger, must not there be a consolidation of the farms, leading to a diminution of the number of tenants?

At first sight that would appear almost to be a palpable and self-evident fact; but I think not, because there is an ample space of land for the location of the people in other places.

9134. There is a large extent of waste land in that country?

A great extent.

9135. A good deal of it is mountain land; primary rock, is not it?

A considerable quantity is.

9136. And a good deal of it is bog?

Yes.

9137. From your knowledge of that part of Ireland, and your observations as connected with that estate, are you able to state any successful instances of bog culture and reclamation, by which, in the absence of the potato, individuals can be located upon the land and provide for their own subsistence?

I can only name one instance throughout the whole of that country which came under my own observation, and this was a tenant of Mr. Martin.

9138. Did he fix upon a bog?

He is the gentleman who has the fishery at Ballynahinch; he has pursued farming

farming avocations, and, if I may trust his report to me, with the greatest success. I know, from my own observation, that he had nothing but bog upon which to exercise his skill; and I have seen what appeared to me magnificent crops.

9139. Was he a capitalist, or an individual having the command of a certain degree of capital, and applying skill and labour to it?
Yes.

9140. Does that, in your judgment, afford any exponent at all of what the result would be of small cottier proprietors, such as those who hold tenements under 10*l.* value in Ireland; and can you give any one instance which has come within your observation, of such settlers upon bog land being able to maintain themselves without potato cultivation?
I cannot.

9141. What was the price of labour at that time?
I should suppose 8*d.* a day in the summer, and 6*d.* in the winter.

9142. Does that gentleman occupy a considerable farm?
Not a very large one; he is occupied in his salmon fishery, and he rents oyster banks; he also preserves meat; and those are his principal occupations; his farming avocations are only adjuncts to his other employments.

9143. When you stated that the occupiers of those small holdings might, as you thought, by a different system of cultivation, have provided the means of maintaining themselves and their families, you contemplated those holdings being occupied by a more industrious and more skilful class of persons than those who now occupy them?
Certainly; and when I was asked the question as to the point of rent, it did not enter into my mind to say that there would be a very large surplus, as there was before with the potato. I meant to say that the holdings were sufficient for the subsistence of the people upon them, in a great many instances; but I beg leave to say, that I think the holdings are far too small for anything like a fair profit to come out of them to the landlord.

9144. Take the Union of Clifden itself; it appears that in the Union of Clifden last year the utmost amount of rate that was collected was 2,529*l.*, and that it required 17,666*l.* above the rate from extra sources to keep the people alive, and that, even with that aid, the debt had augmented in the year from 937*l.* to 4,300*l.*; do you believe, without the potato as an article of food, it would be possible to support that amount of people in the Union of Clifden?
It is yet to be ascertained whether the population is greater in proportion to the land than it ought to be. I confess I do not know much about those figures, because the gentlemen of the county have nothing to say to them. I know nothing about the figures of the Clifden Union. All I know is that we have paid Guardians, and very glad we are to get them, in the present state of the country.

9145. Having paid Guardians who have the entire power of taxing at their discretion, and who, it appears from these papers, have exercised their powers as far as they thought just and reasonable, when they have been only able to raise so small a sum as 2,529*l.* in the year, and 17,666*l.* in addition to that was required; do you believe that the population can be supported in that Union?
I should like to know how that expenditure was made; the Clifden Union did not pass for one of the model Unions of Ireland.

9146. Do you believe that without potatoes the Clifden Union can support the population which is now upon it?
It may not at this moment, but I believe it will some of these days, when the population becomes proportioned to the productiveness of the land.

9147. Do you anticipate the population being distributed, or that there shall be a reduction of the population?
If it so turns out that the new course of cultivation (admitting the potato to have passed away, and that a different course of cultivation ensues) is not sufficient for the number of the people, that number must subside in proportion to the amount of food which is produced.

9148. Supposing that property were purchased by any one whom you had to advise as a capitalist to turn it to the best account, are there parts of that country

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in which you would recommend that assistance should be given towards the emigration of certain portions of the small holders of those 4*l.* tenements?

Yes, I should be very glad indeed to see it.

9149. Do you think you could carry on the improvement of those districts where those small holdings exist, so as to procure the largest amount of produce for human food, and introduce a good system of agriculture, without assisting a great number of those persons to emigrate?

It would facilitate my ulterior movements, having emigration to aid me.

9150. Supposing you had the command of adequate capital which you wished to employ in the improvement of the Clifden district and Ballinahinch estate, do not you think the expenditure of a certain portion of that capital in providing for the population, which was in excess in certain districts, would be an advantageous employment of the capital, with a view to the interest of the estate?

I do; if you will permit me to append to that reply a remark which comes naturally to my mind, it is this, that when I advocate emigration, it is because I feel most earnestly that, with the population as I find them, and with their habits with them alone, I should have no chance of success.

9151. By the Poor Law Returns, it appears that in the Union of Clifden the population was 33,465; that the area was 189,504 statute acres, and by the Agricultural Returns for the year 1847, it appears that there are only 5,527 acres under crops, being a proportion of above six persons to one acre in cultivation; do you think it would be possible, in case of the potato not returning, that such a population could be maintained in that Union, under those circumstances?

I should say, that if the population were to continue, it must bring other land into cultivation.

9152. What has prevented that land being hitherto brought into cultivation?

The want of capital, and the want of security.

9153. During the time you have been connected with that part of the country, has the security of life or property been interfered with by any outrages which have fallen under your observation?

No; not as regards life; but I may take this opportunity of stating, that I should wish to see a very different order of things existing in respect to the administration of the law as connected with property.

9154. In what respect do you think the administration of the law, with reference to the security of the country, might be improved?

The administration of the law is, in my opinion, very defective, not only in the absence of the law, but, in some measure, in the administration of that part of it which is administered. We are very deficient in Magistrates; I could point out a very large tract of country where, for months together, there was not a Magistrate within many miles. I could also show, that at Roundstone, weeks, and, I think, months, have passed without Petty Sessions. I could point to other parts of the country in which the Petty Sessions have been held at long intervals, and to cases where the people have to travel 20 or 25 Irish miles to attend them. In fact, every man's hand is now against property, and there is no person to protect us. If a sheep is stolen, and the crime is as plain as the sun at noon-day, perhaps the police have to travel 25 or 26 Irish miles before the man can be committed, and there is then a chance of not finding the Magistrate at home. The Stipendiary Magistrate, who is stationed at Clifden, is sometimes 40 or 50 English miles away, collecting poor-rates, leaving the more particular part of his duty undone. In fact, we are labouring under the very greatest want of the administration of justice; we are, so to speak, without the pale of the British Constitution and of British law.

9155. Can you state how many Magistrates are resident in the Clifden Union?

In the Clifden Union—there is one at Clifden, who is sometimes there and sometimes not.

9156. Besides the Stipendiary Magistrate?

Yes, at the Killeries there is another Magistrate, General Thompson. Mr. Graham is also a Magistrate, but very often out of the country. We have one other Magistrate at Oughterard, which is 26 Irish miles from Clifden; neither have we any

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any nearer than Spidal, Mr. Andrew Blake; so that, as I can point out in that portion of Galway, I have known the whole country without a Magistrate, there not being one Magistrate in it from one part to another. Our County Quarter Sessions are peculiar to the country; they are half-yearly, and not quarterly; the consequence is, that I have frequently been obliged to pass by depredations upon the property connected with my charge, which it would be useless endeavouring to bring to justice. The feeling throughout the country is, that we are wholly neglected, and as for sowing or planting, or keeping anything, the people say, what is the use of it? there is much more trouble in keeping it, than loss in not having it.

9157. Do you think that it would tend to the preservation of order in the country if an additional number of Stipendiary Magistrates were appointed?

Decidedly; the people of that country are very amenable to justice. I must do them the credit to say, that the law, if it shows itself in the hands of discreet persons, is obeyed. We are peculiarly situated there; the physical configuration of the country is such as to require a greater force there than elsewhere; the means of communication are very peculiar; sometimes by sea, and sometimes by land, where we have no roads or bridges; we labour under many difficulties, which are not felt elsewhere.

9158. Those difficulties, of course, make the resident gentlemen, who are Magistrates, more irregular than they otherwise would be in the performance of those duties from which they derive no profit or emolument?

Decidedly so; with the exception of one gentleman, Mr. Robertson, who has the fishery of Ballinahinch, I do not know a person within 10 or 15 miles of me to whom the power of a Magistrate could be delegated; we have no person who could discharge such duties there; there are few or no gentry resident in the country.

9159. There is a Stipendiary Magistrate resident at Galway, is there not?

There is.

9160. And those are the only two in those extensive baronies?

The only two; the returns of the attendance of the Stipendiary Magistrates at those Petty Sessions would really be a document of considerable interest; it would show how long the intervals are between the attendance of the Stipendiary and other Magistrates.

9161. Is there any record kept by means of which it would be possible to ascertain that?

Yes, I had it in my possession not long ago. I think your Lordships would see that the Petty Sessions at Roundstone have been few and far between.

9162. A Stipendiary Magistrate cannot, by himself, hold a Petty Sessions, can he?

He can for a trespass case, but not for assault cases, I believe.

9163. He hardly, in any cases, has summary jurisdiction?

I think not.

9164. Do you find that the Stipendiary Magistrates at Galway and at Clifden are generally active in the discharge of their duties?

I know one more intimately than I do the other; he is very efficient, and I think he is very much concerned that his orders are such as to take him to a distant part of the country, and to a different duty from that to which he was appointed; he finds that the duty upon which he is employed must entirely take him from that to which he more appropriately belongs, that of a Stipendiary Magistrate.

9165. Is there a desire on the part of the more respectable class of persons in those baronies generally, to have an additional number of Stipendiary Magistrates?

Decidedly; there is no question about it; we are suffering from the want of additional Magistrates, and there is room, I would say, for two more such Magistrates.

9166. Do you believe that there would be any indisposition on the part of

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the gentlemen of the country to see an addition made to the Stipendiary Magistrates?

I should think not; we have, in the first place, very few gentry, or indeed, I may say, none, in my part. I should hail the advent of any two or three with the greatest satisfaction.

9167. You have stated that the rates payable by the landlord have been paid, or are now in course of payment, on the Connemara property?

They are in such a condition as to warrant me in saying they will be paid.

9168. Of what properties does the Clifden Union principally consist?

There are three or four large properties.

9169. Will you state the names?

The largest are those belonging to the following gentlemen: Mr. Darcy, Mr. O'Neil, Mr. St. George, Lord Ffrench, Mr. Graham and General Thompson; there are other properties, I believe, but they are very trifling, and therefore I need not enumerate them.

9170. Do you happen to know whether the rates upon those properties have been paid to the same extent as those upon the Connemara property?

I am told there are arrears still due, but upon whose property they are due, I do not know.

9171. Are the proprietors of those estates resident or non-resident?

Some are non-resident.

9172. Are those who are resident acting Magistrates?

Yes, they are; I only know of two of the resident gentry who are Magistrates.

9173. Are they pretty regular in their attendance on their magisterial duties?

I do not know; there is a general complaint even in the other part of Connemara of the want of attendance of the Magistrates, because they have to come a very great distance; they live a long way off.

9174. Where a Magistrate would have to go 20 or 25 miles to the Petty Sessions Court, of course he would not be likely to attend so regularly as if he had only to go five or six miles?

Precisely so.

9175. Have you any suggestions to offer with respect to the working of the Poor Law in the part of the country to which you belong?

My objections to the Poor Law I can state to your Lordships. I think it is a capital error that there should be any exemptions from the operation of the rating to the Poor Law. I cannot conceive any person out of the poor-house who should not be called on in some degree to take care of those who are in it; I think that a capital error, and one which operates in more ways than one detrimentally to the country.

9176. You allude to the 4*l.* occupiers?

I do; I think that limiting the operation of rating of the Poor Law to those over 4*l.* is detrimental to the best interests of the country, as it is injurious generally to property, and injurious also to the holder of less than 4*l.*; it causes the ill-feeling of the landlord towards him; the landlord's interest, of course, is to get rid of that man, and to make a larger holding; therefore, as long as there is the exemption of occupiers of 4*l.* and under 4*l.*, so long will such a person have the ill-feeling of the landlord towards him. I think it does operate in that way.

9177. Does not it also remove from the holders of those small tenements any interest in the well-working of the Poor Law?

Decidedly; I think they should be made as much interested in the well-working of the Poor Law as the landlord.

9178. Was not the difficulty and expense of collecting the rates prior to the alteration of the law so great as to make it almost possible?

I cannot say, for I was not in the country.

9179. Are you aware that in many cases the amount of rate payable by such occupiers did not amount to a penny?

That

That might easily have been obviated by the landlord taking upon himself the payment of those rates.

9180. Are not you aware, generally speaking, that the permissive power was almost entirely inoperative; that no landlords could be found, or very few, to undertake the payment of those rates?

I do not know why they should not have done so. I would, conditionally, willingly take it upon me.

9181. If there were a power given to the landlord to recover from the tenant those rates, in such a case there would be no objection on the part of the landlord, in many instances, to make the advance?

I should say certainly not; and from the experience I have had of that country, I should be very glad to see it.

9182. You are probably acquainted with the management of English land as well as Irish land; do you think, whatever the law may be, there is practically the same power in the hands of the Irish landlord to enforce the law, or to enforce a special covenant between himself and his tenant, as exists between the same parties in England?

I do not know. I have never been connected with land in England, nor with any land except in Ireland.

9183. Do not you think that in the management of Irish land, taking the covenants which may subsist between you and a tenant, or taking the power of recovering possession if a lease is expired, or ejecting a tenant for non-payment of rent, or any other legal cause, in which the enforcement of a covenant and ejectment in England would be a matter of every day occurrence and of entire facility, there is any such facility and security in Ireland?

Most certainly not. They are in two different parts of the world.

9184. By that you mean that they are morally and socially distinct, however they may be geographically near and politically united?

I know it to my cost.

9185. Will you state to the Committee in what the main points of distinction between the two communities consist?

In the absence of the protection of the law, which is afforded to you here, and which we have not there; I base all my objections upon the absence of that protection which the law gives you here.

9186. Do not you think that the protection which the law gives in a country like England is very much measured by the extent of public opinion which accompanies the law, which enforces by opinion that which the law does not condescend to enforce by force?

Partly so; and give me public opinion in Ireland, and I should be contented.

9187. If there be a public opinion in Ireland, is it generally for the law or against the law?

Against it.

9188. Is it to that fact that you trace the great difficulty of enforcing the law in Ireland?

Yes; I think the facility of evading it is such that everybody attempts it; high and low, I may say.

9189. And that evasion of the law is not considered either as disgraceful, nor does it create any antipathy on the part of the mass of the community by whom it is practised?

Not the slightest.

9190. You have spoken of the few Magistrates who are residing in the districts, and you have spoken of it as a great cause of difficulty and complaint; is not the condition of the gentry in those parts of Connaught with which you have been acquainted, such as to make them at the present moment broken down in circumstances, and daily exposed to greater risks and difficulties in the performance of their ordinary functions as country gentlemen and as Magistrates?

Decidedly; that that has operated upon them, there can be no doubt.

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9191. *Rebus sic stantibus*, supposing the failure of the potato to continue, and the same amount of charges for rates and otherwise to be levied, what do you think will be the condition of the gentry in a few years in that country?

We have no gentry living on their estates. I take my position in Connemara, and North, South, East and West, with the exception of a small corner in the North of the Clifden Union, there are no such persons as gentry with unincumbered estates. On Mr. Martin's property there is nobody, on Mr. O'Neil's property there is nobody; we go Eastward or Southward, and there is not a person with 20*l.* a year to be found.

9192. Those are not the estates of absentee proprietors, are they?

I think three of them are absentees.

9193. Are those evils which you have described, and to which you have attributed much of the inconvenience of which you complain, equally to be found upon the estates of Irish proprietors resident in Ireland, and upon those of English proprietors resident in this country?

I think the evil is general.

9194. You state that there are some of those estates which belong to absentee proprietors, and others which belong to resident proprietors; in the particulars you have been describing, are the people better off upon the estates of those who are resident than of those who are absent?

Yes, decidedly they are, but still not to that extent as to make it general. I put my finger upon one or two persons whom I know.

9195. In the case of the great Ballinahinch estate, where you have described this total absence of Magistrates, and the difficulty of enforcing the law, and the subdivision into small tenements opposing difficulties in the way of improved culture, that is the estate of a resident family, is not it?

No, they are absent.

9196. They have been resident?

They have been, but it was something equivalent to an absenteeism, for they were incapacitated to take that part in the administration of their estate which different circumstances would have enabled them to do, and therefore they were to all intents and purposes absentees.

9197. You mean incapacitated from their private circumstances?

Yes.

9198. You trace the inconveniences you have described, rather to particular circumstances and to the want of means to improve the property, than to the accident of whether they were resident or non-resident?

I should prefer a resident proprietor; but at the same time I think that great good may be done by a discreet person in his place.

9199. Still is there any visible distinction between the estate of Mr. Martin, which you have described, and the estates of those individuals whom you have alluded to as absentees?

Lord Ffrench, as I understand, has never been there; Mr. O'Neil has not been resident for some time.

9200. There are gentlemen who, though not resident upon the one estate, are still resident in Ireland upon another estate?

They are away from those particular estates to which I allude, and I only speak as to the condition of those estates.

9201. You consider in the light of an absentee a person residing in another part of Ireland, and who occupies land in that other part of Ireland?

Yes, as respects the particular estate, he is an absentee, I consider.

9202. Is not the effect of a proprietor being resident in another part of Ireland, precisely the same, *quoad* the estate, as if he were resident in England?

Yes.

9203. Is there greater neglect upon those estates than there has been on the Ballinahinch estate?

I feel diffident in speaking much of the Ballinahinch estate; till the late Mr. Martin's death, there was not that neglect, because a very large sum of money

money was expended upon Ballinahinch, with what discretion I will not say; but there was a very large sum expended, and perhaps the results have not been so beneficial as they might have been.

9204. Expended for the purpose of improvement?
Yes.

9205. There were also large sums expended on behalf of the public, in making coast roads round the whole of Galway; was not that, in itself, a great source of improvement to the district?
Yes, it was; and would have been very much greater had they not left off in the middle; had we those roads, I think we should do a great deal better than is the case at present.

9206. Have you any further suggestions to make to the Committee?
I have a great objection to the rating of 4 *l.* holdings. Secondly, I think I could point out that the operation of the Poor Law is very much crippled by the want of means at the disposal of the authorities to carry it out. In that part of Ireland we are very much dependent upon a class of society whom I do not consider adequate to the trust reposed in them, and not only does the Poor Law itself suffer, but the recipients of the Poor Law Relief suffer likewise?

9207. In what respect do you consider them to suffer?
Virtually, the operation of the Poor Law is in the hands of the Relieving Officer and the Collector, and many instances have come to my knowledge in which they are very deficient indeed as regards both the landlords and the unfortunate poor; they are not of that class of people in whom I have the slightest confidence, knowing full well that they are very deficient in those principles which would induce them to perform their duty conscientiously and well.

9208. In what respect have you observed the deficiency to bear upon the just administration of the law?
In an abstraction from the rights of the poor people, and in the injury done to the landlord; for example, people are continued upon the poor-rates as recipients of relief, who have no right or title to be so. Others, again, are put off at the will of the Relieving Officer. He has also too large a district, in a great many instances; and although we have pointed out the evils occasionally to the Poor Law Inspectors and Guardians, still their answer has been, "We took the best we could find;" and such is the fact, I believe.

9209. Are they of a class of persons who in your judgment are liable to be warped by personal favouritism?
Exceedingly so; and I feel I have suffered by it on many occasions.

9210. Do you think they are also persons who are liable to be acted on by intimidation and fear in refusing sturdy applicants for relief?
I think their principle of action is less excusable than that.

9211. Do you mean that they are corrupt?
Decidedly; I have no doubt about the matter.

9212. Have you any suggestion to offer for the purpose of remedying that grievance?
I have turned my attention to where I thought I could find people, and I consider that some of the pensioned non-commissioned officers, both of the navy and of the army, might be very properly employed in this duty. Wherever I have had to do with a Government officer, such as a pensioner may possibly be considered, I felt I had a hold upon him.

9213. There is no objection, as the law now stands, to persons of the description you have mentioned being appointed Relieving Officer, is there?
We have not many of that description residing in the country. I do not blame the Guardians; they must take what they can get.

9214. Your idea is, that that description of persons might be brought from other parts of the country, and induced to reside there for the purpose of discharging this duty?
Yes; I could mention instances which come to my knowledge, in which the

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Collector and the Relieving Officer are said to have obtained land and have purchased cattle at their own prices, and put persons on or off the list, just as they pleased.

9215. You think that the want of local knowledge would be more than compensated for by their being uninfluenced by any of those considerations by which the present officers are influenced?

Yes; I have had a great deal to do, or I should have turned my attention to it more particularly. I think I can point out in what way the operation of the Poor Law might be made more beneficial, by some correspondence taking place between the Guardians and the proprietors of estates, or their agents, each understanding who the persons are who are put upon the poor-rate list, and entitled to the receipt of the Poor Law allowance. There is no such communication now, saving and except if I find a person who is holding land, I am obliged to give information about it; but if the names were published, I think it would be very beneficial. If the names of all the recipients on each townland were published, so that I could go and ask for the names of all the people upon that townland, I should have an opportunity of telling the Guardians what the circumstances of those persons were.

9216. Do you suppose if there were a book of the Union by townlands, in which the names of all the recipients of relief were entered, which book should be open to the landlord, or the agent of the landlord, that would very much check abuse?

Precisely so; that is the very thing I was speaking of. We are also labouring under another difficulty in that part of the world. The operation of the Poor Law, as regards the Quarter Acre Clause, is this: a man will come to me who perhaps holds ten or twelve or fifteen acres, and he says, "Sir, there is my land, here is my house, and I shall reserve this quarter of an acre to myself with the house;" he might as well keep the whole, for I have no power over it; and moreover, if I understand rightly, the introducer of that clause never intended that to be the case; it was never intended for a person who occupies an agricultural holding, to say he would reserve to himself that quarter of an acre which he pleased.

9217. Have instances of that kind come frequently under your notice?

Yes, many cases; and it is one which is weighing very heavily upon us; the holdings on that estate were about 2,000 *l.* I have many offers for holdings if I could get the occupant out; but he refuses to go, and he is fortified in that resistance by the dictum of the Poor Law advisers. I must say that unless we have security, unless we have possession of the land, we are powerless; we can do nothing. I am no friend to eviction; there is plenty of room for all, but I should like to see such a law that I could remove a man from the middle of a holding which was disposable to some one else, even if I put him into another place. I would give him a house, but do not let him be an incubus upon my land, of which I can make no use; I am obliged to pay rates for it.

9218. There is no law in Ireland with regard to waste by the erection of buildings, instead of the destruction of buildings, is there; there is no law to prevent a man erecting buildings upon his holding?

None that I am aware of.

9219. Your opinion is, that the landlord at present has not sufficient power to enable him to manage his estate, either for his own interest or the interest of the public?

You tie him hand and foot, and then desire him to make a forced march; he cannot do it.

9220. It appears upon the returns that a very great quantity of land now lies waste in those districts of Ireland under your observation?

Yes; a great deal.

9221. To what do you attribute the waste of those lands at the present moment?

Rent is the least objection, because that is the last thing the people consider; it is the rates for which the Poor-rate Collector and the Cess Collector can come and lay hold of, whatever a man has got.

9222. Supposing

9222. Supposing those lands which now lie waste had been cultivated, would they have afforded the means of paying the arrears of rate before next harvest?
No; not if they persisted in putting potatoes in.

9223. Could they be made productive for the purposes of rates till the harvest time?
I think, in some measure, they might.

9224. Supposing the lands which are now waste had been cultivated, would those lands have afforded the means of paying rate, until the effect of that new cultivation came in at harvest?
That would depend entirely upon the cultivation; upon what was put into the ground.

9225. Whatever was put in, till it came to maturity, it would not afford the means of paying rate?
None.

9226. If, when it came to maturity, the amount of rate was equal to the amount of cultivation, is there any possibility under which people could be induced to cultivate?
Certainly not continuously.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned till To-morrow, Two o'clock.

Die Veneris, 11° *Maii* 1849.

The LORD STEWARD in the Chair.

Mr. JOHN HOLDEN is called in, and examined as follows:

9227. YOU are a Guardian of the Belfast Union?
Yes.

9228. A desire was expressed on the part of your Board that one of their body should be examined with respect to the proceedings of that Union?
There was.

9229. Will you state what are the points upon which you were desirous of giving evidence before this Committee?
It was not exactly my own wish, but my brother Guardians, thinking that I had had a good deal to do with the poor the last few years, requested that I should allow my name to be put down.

9230. Are you one of the elected Guardians, or one of the *ex-officio* Guardians?
One of the elected Guardians.

9231. Will you state what has been the operation of the Poor Law in the Belfast Union?
Before the Poor Law came into Belfast, a great many charitable societies that supported the poor had been in operation. When the Poor Law came into operation in 1840, those societies of course ceased to contribute, as persons were then obliged by law to contribute to the support of the poor.

9232. What were those charitable societies?
We had the House of Industry, in which generally they subscribed from 1,000 *l.* to 1,500 *l.* a year by voluntary subscriptions; and we had a corporate society, called the Belfast Charitable Society, which had certain funds arising from the water-works in our town; that was the one of longest standing; it was incorporated by Act of Parliament, and it was likewise supported by voluntary subscription.

9233. How much was the income of it, generally speaking?
Somewhere about 2,000 *l.* a year; in 1830 the voluntary subscription was 700 *l.*

9234. Will you name any other charity that you had at Belfast?
There are still the Fever Hospital and Dispensary, the Ladies' Clothing Society, the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institution, and the Destitute Sick Society.

9235. Was not there a Mendicity Society at Belfast?
The House of Industry acted for that purpose.

9236. Have those societies since been discontinued, having been previously supported by private contribution?
The House of Industry has; the others have not.

9237. Have any of those that were supported by voluntary contributions been discontinued?
None but the House of Industry.

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9238. Are they as well supported by subscription now as they were before the Poor Law was introduced?

No; the funds are scarcely one-half what they were, except the Deaf and Dumb and Blind Institution, which has increased.

9239. Do you connect this decay of the private charities to which you have adverted with the establishment of the compulsory system of charity which is called the Poor Law?

I do.

9240. Do you connect the diminution of those private charitable funds with the establishment of a compulsory Poor Law?

Yes, it may be mainly ascribed to that.

9241. Was the operation of those societies confined to the town of Belfast?

It was.

9242. Do you consider that for the relief of destitution within the town of Belfast, they were as effectual as the Poor Law?

If your Lordships will allow me, I will explain my views upon that subject. Our subscriptions arose generally from a certain class; there were individuals who subscribed to all our charitable institutions; they were disposed to do so; they did so from a charitable disposition. A larger class never gave anything to those charitable institutions. Then when the Poor Law came into operation, it caused those people to be on the same footing with the charitable; therefore, in my humble opinion, it has done much good. Another feeling which always operated upon the mind of a charitable individual before we got our Poor Law, was, that destitution and want might extend to a certain class without their having received public charity; the Poor Law supplying funds to every destitute person, removes that fear; so that when you see a poor person, knowing that there is an ample provision made by law for that poverty, it reconciles a person's mind to say to him, "You are not in want," or "There must be some cause; if you are a proper person to receive relief, there are means of relief for you;" and that certainly has taken away a great inducement to the charitable to give; and it has likewise made those people who were not so disposed, contribute a portion to the support of the poor.

9243. Do not you think that, on the whole, the advantage of compelling all to contribute to the relief of the poor is greater than the disadvantage of, in some degree, checking the charitable feelings of those who previously relieved their wants by voluntary contribution?

I think so.

9244. You consider, therefore, that upon the whole the balance of good is in favour of the introduction of the Poor Law?

Certainly.

9245. Do not you believe that the sum levied for the town of Belfast under the Poor Law is infinitely greater than the sums which were obtained by voluntary subscription before?

Certainly.

9246. And that the relief of destitution has been upon the whole more effectual?

Certainly; it is more general.

9247. The town of Belfast is one of the most opulent and thriving towns in Ireland?

I think so.

9248. Does your view, with respect to the advantage of contribution by a compulsory rate for the poor, carry you to the extent of thinking that it will be expedient to levy an additional rate upon the town of Belfast in aid of the destitution of other parts of Ireland?

That touches on another subject, on which I must beg leave to dissent from that view; I think not.

9249. You do not carry your views to that extent?

I do not.

9250. Is that an opinion generally prevalent amongst the people of Belfast?
I am quite sure it is.

9251. A disinclination to such a rate?
Perhaps further than that.

9252. Do they consider it very unjust?
Very unjust.

9253. Of course, the successful administration of your functions as Guardians depends very much upon your success in levying the rate; up to this time, have you collected your rates with facility and comfort in the town of Belfast?
We have, generally speaking.

9254. What has been the amount of those rates for the average of years?
The first was 5*d.* in the pound in the year 1842; in 1843 much the same; it went on then to 10*d.* in 1845.

9255. What was it in 1846?
I think it was the same; I cannot exactly say. In 1847 it was 1*s.* 3*d.*, and in 1848, 1*s.* 3*d.* The last rate that we struck was 1*s.* 3*d.*; these rates are generally struck twice in each year.

9256. When you speak of the rate, do you mean on the Union in general, or merely in the Electoral Division of Belfast?
I speak of the Electoral Division of Belfast and the Electoral Division of Ballymacarrett.

9257. What is the Poor Law valuation of the Belfast Electoral Division?
Mr. Griffith's valuation was 115,000*l.* At present it is 195,000*l.*, or thereabouts.

9258. Is that of the Union?
No, it is the valuation of the Electoral Division of Belfast.

9259. Then an additional tax of 2½ per cent. upon that large amount of property would only be 4,875*l.* a year; should you feel pretty equally confident of being able to collect in addition 4,875*l.* a year, or 2½ per cent. upon your valuation?
There are difficulties arising in all cases in collecting money, if the person from whom it is collected is not disposed to give it. We raised, in the unfortunate circumstances of our country in the latter part of 1846 and the year 1847, by voluntary subscription, 21,292*l.*

9260. In aid of the general distress?
In aid of the general distress of Ireland; I myself, as an humble individual, have been connected with societies for the last 20 years.

9261. With the charitable societies?
With the charitable societies generally; when we found the distress prevailing very much, we established a soup kitchen by a private society, of which I am an humble member, for which we collected 4,000*l.*; then in order that we might extend our charity beyond our own boundary, when the people in the South and West were so much oppressed, and their food was gone, we raised 7,148*l.*; that is what we call the "General Relief Fund." "The Belfast Connaught Association," raised 6,144*l.* The ladies took up the same object with us, and for the "Connaught Ladies' Association" we raised nearly 4,000*l.* The 21,000*l.* is made up of those items.

9262. Supposing that you had been subjected to a 2½ per cent. rate in aid of Connaught, and the distressed parts of Ireland at that time, do you think that you would have been able to raise that 21,000*l.* by voluntary contribution?
I believe we should not.

9263. Then, if 2½ per cent. upon 195,000*l.* would amount to 4,875*l.* a year, would not the effect of that have been to have deprived the distressed districts of that voluntary contribution of 21,000*l.*, in exchange for a rate of 4,875*l.*?
It certainly would; I say that unhesitatingly.

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9264. Do you think that you would have got that 4,875*l.* by a compulsory rate in aid?

I believe we should not have collected 4*l.*

9265. Do you conceive that the collection of that rate in aid brings into any jeopardy or danger the collection of the ordinary poor's-rate, of which it is proposed that it should in future form a part?

I certainly believe that it will bring it into a great deal of jeopardy.

9266. And you, as a Guardian experienced in that matter, will not feel the same confidence in the collection of the rate which is required for the support of your own poor, if in addition to that rate you have to collect 2½ per cent. to be administered by others, and expended in districts with which you are unconnected?

Certainly; as we would have no control over the money whatever.

9267. Are the Committee to understand you to say, that you apprehend that the 6*d.* in the pound rate in aid will not be collected in your Electoral Division or Union, if it should be imposed by law?

The feeling that prevails is this; I speak advisedly; we are loyal persons in the North, every one; we imbibe our loyalty from our birth; the very atmosphere is impregnated with loyalty for Her Majesty; at the same time, we should not look upon this if it came into a law altogether as an Act of Her Majesty, but as an Act of the Ministry, of course, under Her Majesty's sanction. But at the same time, it raises a certain question: will the people of the North that are industrious, every individual industrious almost, contribute to the wants of those idle persons that will not apply their hands to industry themselves? that is the question.

9268. Then your opinion of loyalty is, that with reference to obeying an Act of Parliament, you must judge yourselves of the effect of that Act of Parliament before you obey or disobey it; is not that a correct inference from your reply?

There are certain Acts of Parliament or laws that may be forced by the arm of the law on individuals, and their object in that case is to get rid of it by every legal means, not to comply with it, if it is forced upon them. If we are involved in this rate in aid (I dare say that is the question), I fear very much that though it may be acquiesced in, there will be such a determination not to pay taxes, that will endanger other regular paid taxes; I am afraid of it. Now, if your Lordships will allow me, I will state a case; I know a landlord who has two townlands within seven miles of Belfast; he offered a short time before I received your Lordships' summons to pay all the taxes and poor-rates, and give the tenants 15 per cent. if they came in and paid the rent on the 1st of May, and there was not a single individual that paid, except one. I state this to let your Lordships know that small farmers are paying as much as they possibly can at present; let anything unhinge that, and then I fear very much that the feeling would be, "Here is now a thing imposed upon us that we ought not to pay, and I will oppose the principle."

9269. Your opinion is, that the tax in question will not be resisted, but will be evaded?

Evaded; I do not think that in the North of Ireland any party would rise in opposition; they will not lay violent hands upon the Collector, or anything of that kind; but I think they will allow the law to go in such way as this; they will say, "Come in and take what you wish out of my property, or use the law." Then, if the Collector takes up a cow or a horse, or any other thing belonging to a small farmer, I do not believe they would get 6*d.* for it.

9270. The opposition you apprehend will be what is commonly termed passive resistance?

Yes, I believe that term might be applied to it.

9271. You fear that that may extend to the collection of other dues; do you mean rents, or do you mean public taxes?

I mean public taxes.

9272. Did you refer to the payment of debts between individual and individual?

No, I confined it to taxes.

9273. The illustration you gave of the refusal of farmers to meet a liberal offer on the part of the landlord, was to show the difficulty they have at this moment to meet the claims upon them; not an indisposition to meet them?
Not an indisposition, but from want of means.

9274. Was it supposed that the rents upon that particular estate to which you allude were high, as compared with rents generally in the neighbourhood?
Certainly not; I only give this to establish the fact, that the contributors, or those that have to pay poor-rates, have not the means of doing more than they are doing; and anything to unhinge that which is regularly going on, would have a tendency, it is feared, to raise opposition to what they have been accustomed to pay, and lead them to say, "We have been paying too much as taxes, and we cannot pay any more."

9275. You say that the feeling of repugnance, which you have described to the payment of this proposed compulsory rate in aid, exists on the part of many of those individuals who have, of their own generous charity, subscribed so nobly to the relief of those very districts for whose benefit this additional compulsory rate is now intended?
I believe it is the greatest number of that class.

9276. Does any part of this repugnance, which you have described, arise out of a want of feeling of confidence that the rate once imposed can either be limited in its duration to two years, or in its amount to 6*d.* in the pound?
I think that there is an opposition in the minds of the country against paying anything additional for the population of another part, that has not made a proper use of their own proper means, as we would have no control over the money so raised. Then there is an opposition likewise on this ground, if you open this door and you get in a sixpenny-piece (as a wedge), you will open the rent a little more, and put a larger piece in; you will put a shilling in; we do not know what length it will go to.

9277. What is your own opinion upon that subject; if a sixpenny rate were imposed by law, should you apprehend, yourself, that it would be carried much further, according to the exigency of the case?
My own impression is, that it would.

9278. As a member of society at Belfast, should you feel the same disposition to embark capital, subject to that apprehension, as if that apprehension did not exist?
Certainly not.

9279. Do you think that tells upon the industrious classes at Belfast; that the apprehension of an extended rate in aid for other parts of Ireland, with which they are not connected, indisposes them to the investment of capital, and to the extension of industry?
I am quite sure it would.

9280. Does the tenant-right prevail in your part of Ulster, and the vicinity?
To a certain extent.

9281. The inhabitants of Ulster are much attached to their principle of tenant-right which so exists?
They are.

9282. Under that tenant-right the tenants have, up to this time, had a qualified interest, capable of being represented in a money value by way of sale of their tenant-right?
They have.

9283. Since the declared intention of the Government and of the House of Commons to impose a rate in aid, has the value of the tenant-right experienced any very considerable alteration in the North of Ireland; is it as saleable as it was?
The thing has only been recently introduced by the Government, and therefore it has not had great effect yet; but I am quite prepared to say, that if it was passed (at present they hope that it will not be passed), then it would have that effect.

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9284. But it has not yet had that effect to any extent?
They are lingering still with the hope that it will not be passed by the House of Lords.

9285. Speaking for yourself, supposing you had 10,000 *l.* disposable to invest in the purchase of the tenant-right of a good block of land, upon a well-managed estate, should you feel the same disposition to purchase the tenant-right of that farm when the rate in aid had passed?
Certainly not.

9286. Are the Committee to understand you to say that the rate-payers in your neighbourhood generally are not in a condition to bear any additional burden whatever at present?
I was alluding to the farmers; the farmers are not. I make a distinction between the two classes.

9287. Will you state the distinction, and the extent to which you would carry it, as to the abilities of the different classes to pay, or not to pay, this 2½ per cent.?
Your Lordships are aware that we are manufacturing people in the North of Ireland, especially in the town of Belfast; my firm gives employment to some eight or ten thousand people in a certain branch; the manufacturing class of people, perhaps, would be as well prepared now to pay the sixpenny rate in aid, the 2½ per cent., as ever they were; but if we take the other class of people, I say they are not.

9288. The other class being farmers?
Yes.

9289. What do you consider to be the cause of their depression at present; is it in any way connected with the Poor Law?
I think it may be. It is a tax put upon us that never was before; and it certainly must have a certain weight. But there is another cause for it; the farmers formerly were able to get a better price for their produce than they are now; for instance, within my own knowledge, in the year 1817, a farmer was able to get four times the price for his produce that he is now; therefore that certainly must have a very serious effect upon the class of farmers that I have alluded to.

9290. Have you any idea what was the valuation of the Union at the time to which you allude; do you consider that the agricultural property in the Union of Belfast is at this moment worth more than it was in the year 1817, or less, taking the fee-simple estate of the whole Union?
Your Lordships are aware that we had no valuation of our county till the year 1838; therefore I cannot give any decided answer upon that; but speaking of the value of the land immediately about the neighbourhood of Belfast, as Belfast is a rising town, it is certainly of more value now, exactly in the neighbourhood of the town, than it was in the year 1817.

9291. Does not it chiefly arise from the great additional quantity of buildings and factories that have been since that period erected?
Yes.

9292. Is it not owing to the development of the manufacturing and commercial industry, as shown by the increase of their factories, by the improvement of their harbours, and by the extension of their foreign and domestic trade?
Certainly.

9293. That great increase of commercial transactions has produced a very considerable rise in the value of land in the immediate vicinity of Belfast?
Just so.

9294. Have you formed any calculation of the different proportions of the rate paid by persons in your Union that you would term agricultural rate-payers, and by urban rate-payers?
I cannot state that exactly.

9295. It is presumed that round Belfast there are in the country various villas and residences, with small portions of land attached to them, that are inhabited by persons, the source of whose income is derived from pursuits in the town?
Certainly.

9296. Therefore the mere fact of a man living in the country would not necessarily include him in the farming interest?
Certainly not; I thought the question referred to landed proprietors generally in the Union; I think the observation in the last question only extends to the immediate neighbourhood of the town.

9297. Looking at the money they have invested in those villas and residences, and probably in the very superior cultivation of the ground adjoining them, it is presumed that they must include a considerable amount of rated property?
Yes; in the neighbourhood of Belfast the property has considerably advanced in value; for instance, taking Hollywood, which is three miles and a half from Belfast, that has considerably increased in value; it is a watering-place.

9298. That is in the Union of Belfast?
Yes.

9299. Then it may be presumed, that by far the greatest proportion of rate paid in Belfast would not be paid by persons who can properly be designated as of the agricultural class?
It would not; but I understood the question to extend beyond Belfast; I was asked with respect to farmers in the North of Ireland holding under tenant-right.

9300. It appears that the area in statute acres of the Union of Belfast, is 47,752 acres, and that the Electoral Division of Belfast contains but 4,166 acres; if we deduct the 4,166 acres from the 47,752 acres, may not it be considered that the remainder is the rural part, and that the part of which you have been particularly speaking, where the buildings and this great wealth exist, is within the 4,166 acres?
Yes.

9301. You are aware that the Poor Law valuation of the Electoral District of Belfast is 195,072 *l.*?
Yes, that is our valuation, according to the present valuators; but Mr. Griffith's valuation is not the same; it is only 115,000*l.*

9302. The rate in question is paid according to the Poor Law valuation?
Yes; but will your Lordships allow me to state, that in the South of Ireland, I believe, they are under Mr. Griffith's valuation, while in the North of Ireland, and especially in the Belfast Union, or in the Belfast Electoral Division, the valuation is nearly double; so that admitting that we paid a tax of 2½ per cent. upon our valuation, it would fall more heavily upon us than upon the South of Ireland, which still retains the valuation which Mr. Griffith made under the direction of the Government.

9303. In point of fact do you think this valuation which is made by your own Poor Law valuators is a tolerably just valuation of the amount of the property; namely, 195,000 *l.* for the Electoral Division of Belfast?
Being a Guardian, I must say that it is.

9304. Are you acquainted with the Electoral Division of Ballymacarrett?
Yes.

9305. The valuation of that appears to be 124,062 *l.*; do you consider that a pretty fair valuation?
Yes; it was made at the time when the Poor Law was established at Belfast, as I understand.

9306. Is Ballymacarrett a thickly inhabited part?
The part immediately adjoining Belfast is.

9307. Is it a suburb of the town of Belfast?
Yes; a part of it is under the municipal jurisdiction of the borough.

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9308. It appears that in the Belfast Union those two Electoral Divisions alone amount to 319,000 *l.*?
I believe that is so.

9309. You have stated that the town of Belfast has greatly improved within the last few years, from large buildings and factories having been erected there?
Within the last 20 or 30 years.

9310. And that it is in consequence of that, that the value of property has been so much raised from the great sums of money that have been laid out in building factories and houses; at the same time, has not the population augmented fully in proportion?
Yes.

9311. With the increase of population, has not pauperism also been greatly on the increase in the town and Union of Belfast?
I am prepared to state that it has; the state of our Workhouse will prove that; we had only about 600 at first, we are now at 2,700; but we have been above 3,000.

9312. You were understood to draw some comparison between the valuation made of your Union and other valuations in different parts of Ireland; will you have the goodness to explain what you then alluded to?
Ireland was valued, I think, in the year 1838; there was a certain sum put down for every townland in all Ireland. There are some parts in the South of Ireland that are not so high as they were set down at that period; they have lowered considerably since; that is, when you take the assessments for poor-rate now, as compared with what they were when they commenced. We in Belfast were set down at the same sum to commence with as the rest of all Ireland; we were set down at 115,000 *l.*; but instead of lowering since that time, our valuation, according to the Poor Law valuators, is 195,000 *l.* Then supposing there was a law to levy a tax of 2½ per cent. on all property, I do not know on what data you would commence to levy the tax.

9313. Was not the principle upon which the valuation of all property was assessed to the poor-rate in Ireland the actual letting value of the property so valued, deducting certain charges?
I think so.

9314. Are not there other Unions in Ireland besides Belfast, in which the valuation has been raised since 1838?
I cannot answer that.

9315. Have you any reason to doubt the fact?
I believe it is so in the neighbourhood of large towns.

9316. Do not you suppose that those valuations have risen because the value of the property in those Unions has risen, and that the valuation has fallen in other Unions because the value of property in those Unions has fallen?
Certainly; but there must be some cause to produce that change.

9317. May not many causes produce a depreciation of property in different countries, or in different parts of a country; have you not witnessed, even in different parts of your own Union, that land and houses will be let higher at one time than they will be at another?
Yes.

9318. Ought not the valuations to follow those fluctuations in the value?
I believe they must do it.

9319. You have stated strongly and distinctly the objection entertained by yourself, and as you believe generally throughout the North of Ireland, to the proposition now before Parliament of a rate in aid; have you ever considered the question of the substitution of a property tax, similar to that existing in England, for the rate in aid?
I have.

9320. What is your opinion with respect to the application of that tax to Ireland?
I think that two or three classes would, perhaps, jar against each other upon that

that subject. I am a manufacturer. If I am able to gain 1,000 *l.* a year, if I am only taxed for my own premises, the 2½ per cent. would not be a large sum; but a property tax upon me, supposing I am making 1,000 *l.* a year, would be a considerable sum; then it would raise objections in certain classes, who would say, "I would much rather pay 2½ per cent. poor-rate than pay a property tax." If you came to round sums, it would make a considerable difference.

9321. Do you consider that among those classes generally who object to the rate in aid, the imposition of a property tax would be more acceptable?
I think it would still come to a question between two or three classes. On that question I must distinctly say, that there are two classes; the class which I have mentioned, and the farming class.

9322. They would have different opinions upon that question?
I think they would; I think there would be a difference of opinion.

9323. You do not think, therefore, that the substitution of a property tax for a rate in aid would meet with very general approbation among the rate-payers composing your Union?
No, I think not.

9324. You are aware that during the last two years many millions have been paid from the revenues of England for the relief of destitution in Ireland?
I am aware of that.

9325. And you are aware, also, that a very large sum has been applied to the same object from the voluntary subscriptions of the inhabitants of different parts of the United Empire?
Yes.

9326. Do you think it just that the other parts of the United Kingdom should be further taxed for the relief of destitution in Ireland, without a proportion of the funds required for that relief being supplied by Ireland herself?
Will your Lordship allow me to enter upon that subject without saying yes or no? There was a large sum of money given by the British Government for the distress of Ireland; some eight millions of money; I come to this conclusion, that that money which was given by the Government was very injudiciously given. Our country (I am an Irishman) is a country peculiar to itself in a great many things; if we take our working class, and put them in the army or put them into any other situation, put them in any position you like, there are no men better when you take them out of the nest; but let any sum of money be given to persons who are determined not to work; let any amount of relief be given, no matter how large, I do not think it is doing them any good at all; I think it is only nourishing and supporting an indolent spirit, and that you ought rather to strive to raise them out of the position in which they are; instead of doing good, it has made many paupers; it has made two millions of paupers; so that though England has given a large sum of money, and a large sum of money was expended on certain districts of the country, it has not produced that good effect which it would have done, had it been employed in some measures to make those who had nerve and youth and strength do something for themselves.

9327. Are not you aware that the funds so given were given in the first instance for works adopted at the recommendation, and to a certain extent under the control of the magistracy and gentry and the rate-payers of Ireland?
I believe they were.

9328. If, therefore, there was extravagance and waste and abuse in the expenditure of those funds, do you consider that the blame of that falls upon England, which gave the money, or upon those parties in Ireland who had the selection of the objects to which those funds were to be applied?
I believe that any sum of money might be given with the best intention, but yet, that that sum of money might do more harm than good. The giver may have the best intention, but at the same time, when that is given to individuals in a country, it may do more harm than good.

9329. You have stated that the mode in which those funds have been applied has, in your opinion, been the means of making many paupers; do you not

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believe that but for the application of very large funds from England, both from the public Exchequer and from private benevolence, a very great proportion of the population of Ireland would, during the late famine, have died of hunger?

I am fully prepared to say that extraordinary means must have been had recourse to in order to supply the wants of those poor whose subsistence was removed from them; but at the same time, it is necessary that every individual in society should make some effort in order in some way to provide for himself. I speak now from experience of many years of the poor. I recollect, when a lad, taking part in an association in the year 1817; and though we had not much money to spare, we distributed part of our food to them; it was given by stealth to them; they would scarcely receive it in any other way; that was a right principle, which ought to be ever cultivated in society, not to break down that independent mind which is in every individual, leading him to strive to do something for himself. I believe that the money which was given by the Government from generosity, and from a noble spirit, had a tendency to break down that principle to a great extent.

9330. Do you believe the principle of self-reliance to be as strong amongst the peasantry of other parts of Ireland as in that part with which you are particularly connected?

It might once have been so.

9331. Do you believe it ever to have been so?

The only ground upon which I can answer that question is, taking us as a nation, I say it did exist, as far as my own knowledge goes; but there may be local circumstances connected with different districts, in consequence of which, perhaps, it did not exist to the same extent as it did with us.

9332. What are those circumstances?

I spoke of our country as an industrious people striving to do something for themselves; I have said that I am not enough acquainted with the South of Ireland to be able to say whether that principle has been broken down there through any circumstances.

9333. Are you aware of any circumstances that have occurred to break it down?

If I bring my own experience to bear upon it, I have known many industrious people that were broken down, under circumstances, perhaps, over which they had no control; for example, a family depending upon the labour of the husband; the husband by death may be taken away, and the family compelled to seek for relief from charity; that must, of necessity, force the spirit down; but I have known instances where I have been the means of administering relief, and where their feeling of independence was such that they were almost ashamed of seeing the distributor of those bounties afterwards, and that spirit still exists. There are individuals often in such circumstances that you must administer charity to them; they are living in rooms, and they would not go in, perhaps, to the Workhouses; they have an independent spirit, and you must give them relief through some other channel. Perhaps the state of things which has existed in the South of Ireland may have had a tendency to break down that feeling.

9334. Do you believe that feeling of independence to prevail equally in the South as in the North of Ireland?

My own feeling is, that it does not extend to the South in the same degree.

9335. Admitting that there may have been some fault attributable to the people themselves, yet when by recent circumstances they have been reduced to the appalling state of distress which we have witnessed, do you not consider that it was the duty of the Government and of the community at large to step forward and relieve them from the effects of that visitation with which Ireland has been afflicted?

Certainly, where destitution and want prevail, I think that charity ought in all cases to extend; but whether it is prudent to give that charity in a certain way to supply their wants, is another question.

9336. Do you not think, that in some shape or other, it is just that Ireland should bear some addition to her present taxation, for the purpose of relieving the destitution that has occurred within her shores?

If

If we were depending upon our own exertions, if we had all our own resources in our own hands, then I think your Lordship's question would come with all due weight; but when those resources are cut off from us as a nation, when those resources are taken out of our hands, then I say those that have taken those resources out of our hands ought to assist us in a case of necessity.

9337. How do you consider those resources to have been taken out of your hands?

Of course, if a man sells a property, he has a right to reap what advantage he can out of that property, but we do not get the revenues of our country.

9338. What do you mean when you say that you "do not get the revenues of your country?"

I am taken upon a field here that I am not at all prepared for; it would open the question of the repeal of the Union, or something of that kind; as an individual, my own mind is made up that that ought not to be.

9339. What do you mean to convey by the expression that you "do not get the revenues of your country?"

All the revenues of the country collected in different parts go into the general fund of the empire at large; therefore, if by necessity we are thrown into poverty and destitution, to whom are we to look; is it to a fractional part of the country, or is it to the country generally?

9340. That would affect, would it not, the whole principle of the Poor Law, and the application of local funds to the relief of local distress?

I look upon taxation for the poor in a different light from what I look upon taxation for the revenues of the country.

9341. Did you mean by your former answer to imply that more money goes out of your country, in the shape of taxation, than comes into it for Irish purposes?

I cannot lay my hand upon dates and figures to prove that; I do not give a decided answer, but my impression is that more comes into the revenues of the State than what is sent out.

9342. That more is drawn from Ireland in the shape of taxation than is expended in Ireland for the maintenance of establishments in Ireland?

The impression upon my mind is that it is so.

9343. Of those 8,000,000 *l.* which the Imperial Treasury furnished for the distresses of Ireland, did the Union of Belfast receive any portion?

Certainly not; we never received a farthing of public money, either under the Temporary Relief Act, or any other Act that the Government ever instituted.

9344. During the great distress, instead of your receiving money, did you not contribute, as well as England, a considerable sum for the support of the distressed parts of Ireland?

Yes.

9345. Do you not consider that the imposition of this rate in aid upon your part of Ireland, which has not received any assistance, will be a great act of injustice, by its being imposed upon Ulster for the support of Munster and Connaught, and not being extended over the whole United Kingdom?

Certainly.

9346. Are you sure that no part of the rate in aid will be expended within the province of Ulster?

My impression is that it will not.

9347. Not even in the county of Donegal?

Perhaps there might be some in the county of Donegal.

9348. Is it not the fact that Belfast contributes more by her trade, commerce and manufactures towards the public revenue than almost any other town in Ireland?

I believe it does.

9349. Are you acquainted with the Returns of the different revenues derived from Belfast, and from other towns in Ireland?

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I have seen them, but I do not charge my memory with them, so as to give a decided answer as to the amounts.

9350. You are acquainted with the adjacent Unions in the county of Down and county of Antrim?
Yes.

9351. Can you state what the general feeling of the inhabitants and rate-payers in those Unions is, as regards the levying of a rate in aid?
Since I came away, there has been a meeting of the Poor Law Guardians of different Unions, in order to present a petition to the House of Lords with regard to this question; so that I may say that all the Unions in the North of Ireland, as far as I know, are decidedly against it.

9352. Do not you believe that in Ireland 99 out of 100 rate-payers in those Unions, who would have to pay 6*d.* in the pound, without any prospect of receiving any portion of that sum so raised, have strong objections to the imposition of this rate?
I think so.

9353. Do not you think, that if an income tax was imposed to raise a sum for similar purposes, 99 out of every 100 men in Ireland, who would thereby have to pay a larger amount of taxation than they would by a rate in aid, would have also objections to the income tax?
I would say, let the neighbourhood or the town of Belfast be told that a certain sum is wanted for the purpose of supplying the wants of the poor; I say that the 7,000*l.* for Belfast and its neighbourhood would come; I would guarantee to get half a dozen gentlemen to raise that money by voluntary subscriptions in a very short time if the distress was known to require it; so that it cannot be said that we are not willing to give relief to destitution and poverty where it is found; that is not the principle; it is not the laying a sixpenny rate upon us that we object to, but the principle of putting in a wedge.

9354. The same principle would apply to the income tax, if it was put upon you to support the poor of another part of the country; and you were understood to say, that there would be a strong objection entertained by yourself and others to the imposition of an income tax upon you for that purpose?
If my memory serves me right, I said there would be a division of opinion upon that question.

9355. You were understood to say that the agricultural class would be upon one side, because it would affect them less than the proposed rate, and that the mercantile and manufacturing class would be upon the other side, because it would come upon them with infinitely more weight than a rate in aid would; was not that what you said?
Yes.

9356. Supposing we were placed in a predicament that we must choose between an income tax and a rate in aid, which do you think, upon the whole, would be most acceptable to the greatest number of persons?
A rate in aid would fall upon a class which is not in any way prepared to meet anything more than what is already laid upon it; an income tax would come upon another class of people, who would be able, perhaps, to pay occasionally a greater sum; therefore a charitable mind that is disposed to give relief would say, "I would rather give relief out of a sum that I have, than make hundreds of paupers, and throw them upon the Unions, by putting a heavier tax upon them."

9357. Is it practically your opinion that in the Union with which you are acquainted, the levying of 6*d.* in the pound would create any more paupers?
I am inclined to think, that if trade went on as it has been going on for some time, it would not throw many more into the Workhouse in that district. I am talking now of the Electoral Division of Belfast. If you confine it to Belfast, it will not; but if you extend it to the country, I fear it will.

9358. Do you think that levying an additional rate of 6*d.* in the pound would create paupers in the country districts?
I believe it would.

9359. Supposing

9359. Supposing that the 6 *d.* in the pound was not levied immediately, but that a rate in aid of 6 *d.* in the pound, in addition to the rates which would be required for the purpose of the Electoral Division, was levied in the month of September next after the harvest, do you think that that would create any paupers?

If you can ensure a good potato crop next year, we shall be able to pay it.

9360. What is the amount of rate in the pound levied this year in the Belfast Union?

One shilling and three-pence; that is, in certain Electoral Divisions, for the half-year.

9361. Do you recollect the average of the Union?

There are some divisions 1 *s.*, some at 10 *d.*, and one at 6 *d.*, the half-year.

9362. Is that low rate in the country division or in the town?

In the country districts.

9363. Are the country districts in such a state that you think that the levy within them of an additional 6 *d.* in the pound will actually create paupers?

If a man is paying as much as he possibly can of taxes, if he is scraping together what will just pay his taxes, then if something else, no matter how trifling it is, comes, say 3*s.* or 4 *s.* more, if he has been contending with it, he will say, "It is of no use to strive against these things, because they multiply in such a way;" the last feather will break the camel's back.

9364. Does a taxation of 1 *s.* 4 *d.* or 2 *s.* in the pound press so heavily upon the occupiers of land in that country?

It is very easy to speak of 6 *d.* in the pound or 2½ per cent. as a small sum; but I have said before, that when they are pressed already to the utmost stretch, if you lay a heavier thing upon them, it breaks them off their disposition of paying.

9365. You were understood to say that you consider the valuation of the Belfast Union a fair one; supposing that to be the case, is it possible to conceive that 2 *s.* in the pound upon a fair valuation can press with the force which you have described upon either the farmers or the proprietors, supposing the farmers to pay only a fair rent?

To a person who is in the habit of receiving money and transacting the business of a large property, it is easy to say that 6 *d.* in the pound is a mere trifle, but when we look at the class of people who are getting a mere pittance, there is no portion of taxation scarcely that you can mention which has not a tendency to create the disposition of saying, "I have been bearing more than I can possibly bear, and here is more put upon me."

9366. If in some of the poorer districts in Ireland a rate amounting to 3*s.*, 4*s.*, 5 *s.*, and even more, in the year, has been not only struck, but collected, how are the Committee to understand that there would be any difficulty in collecting a rate not amounting to more than 2 *s.* in the year upon the comparatively wealthy district round Belfast?

It is not so much the amount as the principle.

9367. Then you think it would really operate more strongly upon their feelings than actually upon their resources?

I believe it would.

9368. How would it increase pauperism, if it acted more upon their feelings than upon their pockets?

By reducing a person who was in the habit of paying to the extent to which he could pay, to say, "I shall give up the hope of contending any more, because you lay this large tax upon me."

9369. Is not it the fact, that the land in general in the county of Antrim and in the county of Down, and in your Union also, is of a very light quality generally, not of the best kind?

It is not the best.

9370. Is it not the fact that there is very little land in the county of Antrim that produces wheat; is not the produce chiefly oats?

Chiefly oats.

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9371. Is not there a great depression in the value of agricultural produce?
Very great.

9372. Have not you every reason to expect that this year, from the low price of agricultural produce, as well as from the harvest being likely to be deficient, the profits of the farmer will be greatly diminished?
Certainly.

9373. Will not that curtail the means of the rate-payers to pay this rate in aid, if it be imposed?
Certainly.

9374. Consequently, will it not make them feel the hardship of their case very greatly?
Certainly, it must have that tendency.

9375. Does the removal of Irish paupers who have passed a number of years in England from that part of the United Kingdom to Ireland, operate as a hardship upon the rate-payers of those Unions in Ireland to which they become chargeable?
Certainly.

9376. In the absence of a Law of Settlement, do not they become chargeable, generally speaking, to the Union in which they land?
Certainly; when the laws were being made for England and Scotland, Ireland had no interest whatever in the making of those laws, or, in other words, we had no Poor Law ourselves; therefore it did not affect us so much what the law with reference to England and Scotland was, as it was a local thing for themselves. They had certain laws as to parish residence, and all those things, which we as a people knew nothing of; when we got our Poor Law we were utter strangers to the working of the principle. According to the Poor Law that the Government placed upon us, we have no settlement; that is our law; since that, the Poor Law Acts have been amended, and the law that now exists is, that destitution, wherever it is found in Ireland, is to be relieved. If we as Guardians object to relieve a poor person, we are amenable for the consequences if anything occurs; therefore, England and Scotland having settlement laws of their own, such as parochial settlements, the result is, that a person may live five, ten, twenty, thirty, forty, or fifty years in the country and gain no settlement, as I can prove. Then England and Scotland may send all those people to us, and for their own convenience they may send them to Belfast as the nearest port; and the consequences are, that during the last few years we have had a very large influx of those paupers. Perhaps your Lordships will allow me to read the particulars of a few cases. Jane Crawford, aged 66, was sent from Staley Bridge, near Manchester; she was in England upwards of twenty years; she is now chargeable on the Belfast Union, and has been so since the 10th of January 1848. Mary Gallagher, and one child, was sent from Scotland on the 18th of January 1849; she is now chargeable; she belongs to the county of Donegal; she was 16 years in Scotland. James Saul, aged 50, was sent from Manchester, where he became paralysed, after a residence in England of 16 years; he has been chargeable in our Union since the 2d of July 1844. James M'Clean, aged 29, was sent from Glasgow; he was eight years in Scotland; was landed on the Belfast quay on the 27th of April 1844; one leg had been lately amputated, the other was fractured; he also had six ribs and his collar-bone broken; he belongs to Ballymena, and has been chargeable on our Union since the 27th of April 1844; we have no power to remove such a case. Jane Pinkerton and seven children were sent from Manchester, where she had lived 17 years; all the children were born there; she was sent here, though she requested to be sent to Glasgow to her husband; she arrived on the 21st of March 1848. Thomas Marshall and his wife and three children were sent from Scotland, where he had lived for 50 years, and his wife is a native, and all the children were born there; he belongs to Sligo; he was sent on the 1st of February 1849. Now, those are only mere instances; some 13,000 poor persons have been landed from Scotland and England at our town. Your Lordships are aware that there is a settlement in Ireland of three years; they must in the last three years have lived 30 months in the Electoral Division; and most of those cases are chargeable to the Union at large. On Monday last, the day before I came here, a person of the

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the name of James Connor, in the county of Down, Mary Wells or Connor, his wife, a native of Edinburgh, and also three children born there, were landed in Belfast, having been sent from Edinburgh, where he had resided for the last 20 years; he is a carter by trade, and can earn from 12*s.* to 15*s.* weekly; he has been employed by a Mr. Michael Fox for the last nine years. About 16 months ago he was driving across Dean Bridge, and the Perth coach was coming in an opposite direction, when a child happened to be standing on the middle of the road, just as the coach was coming up to it, when he immediately jumped out of his cart and saved the child, by throwing it into the cart; in doing that generous act he got his arm broken, and he afterwards got another hurt. This man, who had been an able-bodied man, was in the hospital there, and was sent over to Ireland. With your Lordships' permission I will deliver in a statement of the number of persons sent to Belfast from England and Scotland between the 17th of July 1848 and the 14th of March 1849, who were subsequently transmitted from thence by the Belfast General Relief Committee to their respective counties.

The same was delivered in, and is as follows:

NUMBER of PERSONS sent to *Belfast* from *England* and *Scotland* between the 17th July 1847 and 14th March 1849, who were subsequently transmitted from thence by the *Belfast* GENERAL RELIEF COMMITTEE to their respective Counties.

SENT TO	FROM SCOTLAND.	FROM ENGLAND.	TOTAL.
County Antrim	305	32	337
„ Armagh	715	42	757
„ Carlow	4	-	4
„ Cavan	592	22	614
„ Clare	18	-	18
„ Cork	20	-	20
„ Derry	286	24	310
„ Donegal	51	1	52
„ Down	543	21	564
„ Dublin	49	-	49
„ Fermanagh	380	30	410
„ Galway	7	3	10
„ Kerry	1	-	1
„ Kildare	2	-	2
„ Kilkenny	1	-	1
„ King's County	20	-	20
„ Leitrim	442	14	456
„ Limerick	6	1	7
„ Longford	84	4	88
„ Lowth	38	-	38
„ Mayo	32	-	32
„ Meath, East	10	-	10
„ Meath, West	43	1	44
„ Monaghan	908	27	935
„ Queen's County	3	1	4
„ Roscommon	179	11	190
„ Sligo	81	19	100
„ Tipperary	13	-	13
„ Tyrone	676	75	751
„ Waterford	6	-	6
„ Wexford	5	-	5
„ Wicklow	4	-	4
England	14	5	19
Scotland	269	16	285
TOTAL	5,807	349	6,156

By reference to the Books of the General Relief Fund Committee, it appears that in addition to the foregoing, upwards of 6,000 other paupers were transmitted to Belfast from Scotland, which the Committee did not consider were entitled to relief from their Fund - - - - - - - - 6,000

Making a gross Total of upwards of - - - 12,000

The maintenance of this number of persons, at the rate of 2*s.* per week per head, would in one year amount to the sum of 63,213*l.* odd. It is obvious, therefore, that unless the

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Scotch and English law of removal shall be altered, the consequence of this state of things must prove most injurious to Belfast.

According to the regulations made by the Justices for carrying into effect the 8 & 9 Victoria, poor persons removing from England to the following counties should only be sent to the Port of Belfast, viz., Antrim, Down, Tyrone, Fermanagh or Armagh, *unless where they should consent to be removed to any other port or place in Ireland.* If the words in *italics* were expunged from the Act, and the law of removal in Scotland assimilated to that in England, then 2,330 poor persons out of 4,880 poor persons in the preceding list, would have been sent to other Irish ports and not to Belfast.

9377. Are those persons whom you mentioned as being landed at Belfast all chargeable to the Union?

Yes; if they have lived in the Electoral Division 30 months within the last three years, they are chargeable to the Electoral Division; if not, they are chargeable to the Union. Now of all the thousands and tens of thousands of Irish poor in England and in Scotland, scarcely any man can gain a settlement there, especially in Scotland; medical advice or medical relief disqualifies a person from gaining a settlement; they are not removable if they have gained a continuous residence for five years without receiving any parochial relief, but they may live 100 years moving from one place to another, and never gain a settlement under the English law or the Scotch law. Then, if all those people are put on shore, as some 13,000 of them have been at Belfast, the law compels us to give immediate relief to any person who is found destitute in our Union.

9378. You are aware that the Irish Poor Law does not give to any person an absolute and unqualified right to relief?

But destitution must be relieved; supposing an individual applies to the Guardians, and he dies from destitution, the Guardians are held responsible.

9379. Have you taken a legal opinion upon that point?

Certainly.

9380. Are you advised that that is the law?

Yes; there is a discretionary power left with the Board of Guardians in all cases that come before them, to decide whether they are subjects to be received into the Workhouse or not; but supposing a poor destitute person comes to the Board, with six or seven children, and the Guardians say, "We will give you no relief," and the person dies, the Guardians are considered responsible.

9381. Supposing a person of that description presented himself to you, and stated that though he had resided some time in England, he was born in a neighbouring Union, should not you, after relieving him, pass him on to that Union?

We have no power, as the law does not allow the Guardians to apply the funds of the Union to the removal of paupers to the places of their birth or former residences.

9382. But you would not continue to relieve him; would you not tell him to go to the place where he was born?

But he could not go; for instance, Mary Gallagher was sent from Scotland; she belongs to the county of Donegal; she had been 16 years in Scotland; we could not as Guardians send her on.

9383. Having stated the grievance, have you anything to suggest by way of remedy; do you consider an alteration in Irish or in the English Poor Law to be required, and if so, what alteration would you recommend?

If the English Law were assimilated to the Irish, so as to relieve destitution wherever it is found, that would remedy the evil.

9384. You would abolish the Law of Settlement in England?

I speak from hearsay, from conversing with some Guardians in this country; but I believe that there is now a travelling population from one parish to another to a large extent, and that one parish owes another parish considerable sums. I am aware that if you send a pauper from one parish to another in this country, you are obliged to bear the expense.

9385. But that is charged to the parish to which the person belongs?

In this country, but not with us.

9386. You would prefer the abolition of the Law of Settlement in England to the introduction of a Law of Settlement in Ireland?
I certainly would.

9387. But as far as your own country is concerned, the introduction of a Law of Settlement in Ireland would remove the grievance in a great measure?
I am afraid it would create the same thing that I stated before, the keeping a travelling population going from one place to another. Suppose we had a charge against the Ballina Union, I do not know where we should look to get payment for it. Here you are in such a state that one parish can pay the claims made upon it by another; but if we had a Law of Settlement in Ireland, and removed the paupers from one place to another, and brought a charge against another parish or Union, there would be no possible way of getting the money.

9388. That is, supposing insolvency or unwillingness to pay on the part of the Union to which the pauper is removed?
Yes.

9389. Have you any other suggestion to offer besides the removal of the Law of Settlement, for the purpose of remedying the grievance which you have described?
I think that if a person resides in Scotland a certain number of years, say five, he should gain a settlement by residence, and be entitled to relief by his residence in that country; the number of years might be one, two, three, four, five, six or seven; but let the number of years be fixed; that country has the benefit of that individual's labour, which is his capital, for the number of years he has been residing in that country; but after a man residing for 20 or 50 years in the country, under the present law, he can be expelled, and all his children, breaking up all his associations.

9390. You would therefore extend to Irishmen and Irishwomen in England the same provision, with respect to settlement, that applies to the natives of England?
That a period of time should gain a settlement.

9391. That they should not be removed after a certain number of years' residence; after five years' residence?
That it should be understood that they are to gain a settlement by a certain number of years' residence.

9392. Would you make it irrespective of their having received during that time parochial relief, or would you deprive them of their settlement if they should at any time have been recipients of parochial relief?
I would suggest that medical relief, or a medical visit, should not disqualify an individual in either England or Scotland, so as to break off his claim upon that parish.

9393. Have you any other suggestion to make?
Yes, with regard to children born in England or Scotland, I think that being born there should entitle them to relief. If an Irishman marries a Scotchwoman, and the children are born in Scotland, if the husband dies, they send them all over to us.

9394. With the mother?
With the mother. In removing paupers, if you remove them from one extremity of England to another, you are obliged to bear the expenses of them, I believe. Why should they not bear the expenses when they send them to us? Two Justices of the Peace must ascertain their birth-place, and they send them with a warrant to us to let us do what we like; but where they are removing from one parish in Scotland or England to another, they must bear all the expenses. Then why should they not bear the expenses of those individuals to Sligo or to Limerick, or to wherever they are going, and not leave them in our place? Your Lordships will see the just cause of complaint that we have, on account of having so many thousands left at our quays by the law of England and Scotland; and our law, when they come to fall upon us, compels us to give relief to those individuals. I would suggest that it would be an improvement in the removal ticket, that when they are removing persons to their birth-place, the Clerk of the Union to which they are going should have notice of such removal, so that we should ascertain that those persons are being removed by authority

Mr. John Holden.

11th May 1849.

from one part of England or Scotland to another. Here is the list officially sent from Glasgow of the persons landed on the quay of Belfast in one day, the 13th of April. Here are persons belonging to Dublin, Tyrone, Derry and other places.

9395. What is the number?
Sixty-five.

9396. And to all of those you have to administer relief?
I am connected with a Society called the General Relief Fund; a great number of those people got relief from the Relief Fund.

9397. If it had not been for that Society, they would have been chargeable to the funds of the Union?
Certainly.

9398. Do those people all remain in Belfast, or have they been sent from Belfast?
A great number were sent from Belfast at their own request; several of them were sent back to Scotland; they had their keys in their pockets of their houses, as they had furniture in them, and some of them had lived in Scotland upwards of 30 years; but in no instance did we ever send any of the poor of our own Union.

9399. Do they generally arrive in Belfast in a state making it necessary to afford them relief of some kind?
Certainly, as many of them were sent from Scotland without any food.

9400. Had the great majority of those people been very long in Scotland, or had they gone casually from Ireland to Scotland?
The greatest number of those had been recently there.

9401. They had gone during the time of the great distress in Ireland?
Yes.

9402. Is there anything else that you wish to add?
We would suggest that in the removal ticket or warrant they ought to state where they were born; cause of removal, that is, the amount and nature of chargeability; length of residence in Scotland or England; medical certificate as to ability to travel; amount of relief given to enable them to reach their homes, and the kind, whether in money or food; number of the pauper's family, if any, remaining in England or Scotland, and supporting themselves, with the amount of their weekly earnings, to show whether they could support their parents, and likewise where the children moved (if any) were born.

9403. And where the paupers themselves were born, as far as it can be ascertained?
Yes; there may be a difficulty now, according to the English and Scotch law, in saying how you are to meet the expense of those paupers who have no parish residence; for instance, each parish, I believe, in England, is chargeable for its own poor; there might be a rate in aid struck to meet this.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

Ordered, That this Committee be adjourned,
sine die.

Die Veneris, 25° Maii 1849.

The EARL OF ST. GERMANS in the Chair.

The Honourable EDWARD TURNER BOYD TWISLETON is called in, and further examined as follows:

9404. YOU have some documents to deliver in to the Committee?

I have a statement showing the expenditure of certain Unions during the years ended the 29th of September 1846 and 1847 respectively. The Unions are Ballina, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Clifden, Galway, Glenties, Kenmare and Westport.

The same is delivered in.

STATEMENT, showing the EXPENDITURE of the under-mentioned UNIONS during the Years ended 29th September 1846 and 1847, respectively.

NAME OF UNIONS.	Expenditure of the Year ended 29 September 1846.	Expenditure of the Year ended 29 September 1847.	——
	£.	£.	
Ballina - - -	2,939	6,197	
Ballinrobe - -	1,132	4,328	
Castlebar - - -	1,417	2,273	
Clifden - - -	- - -	612	- - Workhouse opened 8th March 1847.
Galway - - -	2,926	7,298	
Glenties - - -	608	2,338	- - Workhouse opened 1st May 1846.
Kenmare - - -	2,162	3,334	
Westport - - -	2,970	3,539	

I have also a return showing the Poor Law Unions in Ireland in which out-door relief is given to able-bodied men, specifying the Unions in which cooked food is given, and the nature of the relief afforded to such class in other Unions.

The same is delivered in.

RETURN, showing the POOR LAW UNIONS in *Ireland* in which OUT-DOOR RELIEF is given to ABLE-BODIED MEN; specifying the Unions in which Cooked Food is given, and the Nature of the Relief afforded to such Class in the other Unions.

Unions in which such Relief is given in Cooked Food.	Nature of Relief where not given in Cooked Food.
* *Ballina.*—Cooked food given in some Electoral Divisions; cooked rations were given generally in last year, but rye-meal having since been used instead of Indian meal, the rations have in some divisions been issued in raw meal. Indian meal now resumed, and the issue of cooked food will no doubt again become general in the Union.	In some Electoral Divisions of Ballina Union, Indian meal not cooked is now given, but cooked meal expected to be resumed.

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Unions in which such Relief is given in Cooked Food.	Nature of Relief where not given in Cooked Food.
	Ballinrobe.—Uncooked yellow Indian Meal. During last week a small portion of rye and Egyptian meal used, the supply of Indian meal being deficient.
	Bantry.—Full order recently issued: Indian meal will be issued uncooked, there being neither funds nor facilities for cooking.
	Callan.—In food not cooked.
	Cashel.—Uncooked Indian meal: and now partly rice to parties affected with dysentery or diarrhœa. Vice-Guardians obliged to abandon for a time a contemplated arrangement for giving cooked food, owing to the difficulty of obtaining sufficient rates, "as cooked food would be attended with more expense than raw meal."
	* *Castlebar.*—Uncooked rye-meal. During last season cooked rations given, but Vice-Guardians compelled to discontinue the system, owing sometimes to the want of the necessary description of meal, and at others to Contractors not properly baking the bread.
	Castlerea.—No out-door relief to able-bodied men yet given; when given, Indian meal to be used.
	* *Clogheen.*—Uncooked Indian meal.
	Clonmel.—Raw meal, on account of difficulties, which have rendered it impracticable to give cooked food.
* *Dingle.*—Cooked food in two Electoral Divisions.	In other divisions of Dingle Union, raw meal at present, but arrangements in progress for giving cooked food generally.
* *Ennis.*—Cooked food in three Electoral Divisions.	In the 15 other divisions of Ennis Union, dry Indian meal.
	Ennistymon.—Uncooked Indian meal.
	Galway.—Uncooked Indian meal.
	Gort.—Uncooked Indian meal.
	* *Granard.*—No return: but relief believed to be given, not in cooked food.
	Kanturk. Uncooked Indian meal.
	Kenmare.—No return: but relief believed not to be given in cooked food.
	Kilmallock.—Uncooked Indian meal.
Kilrush.—Cooked food; namely, rye and barley bread, to the extent of about 5,000 pounds weight weekly.	The remainder in Kilrush Union given in rations of rye, barley and Indian meal.
Listowel.—Cooked food given in 11 Electoral Divisions.	In six Electoral Divisions of Listowel Union, uncooked Indian meal; in four divisions, no out-door relief to able-bodied men.

Unions in which such Relief is given in Cooked Food.	Nature of Relief where not given in Cooked Food.
	* *Loughrea.*—Uncooked Indian meal given to able-bodied men daily; to other classes, stirabout of Indian meal.
	* *Mohill.*—Indian meal.
Newcastle.—Cooked food, unless the recipient becomes unwell, when the relief is temporarily changed.	
Scariff.—Biscuit furnished by Commissariat, as part of the grants in aid.	And uncooked Indian meal.
	**Skibbereen.*—No return; but relief believed to be given, not in cooked food.
	* *Swineford.*—Indian meal.
	* *Thurles.*—Dry meal: parts of Union where cooked food could not be given under any circumstances; in other places, greatly increased staff and large outlay would be required to give it.
	* *Tipperary.*—Raw Indian meal, but cooked food to be issued in two Electoral Divisions after this week; and to be extended to other divisions as soon as practicable.
	* *Tralee.*—No cooked food; steeped Indian meal given.
* *Tuam.*—Cooked food, namely, bread made of rye and barley meal.	
	Westport.—Indian meal or rye meal.

SUMMARY.

Cooked food only - - - - - -	2 Unions.
Partly cooked food, and partly uncooked food	6 „
Uncooked food only - - - - - -	23 „
TOTAL - - -	31 Unions, in which out-door relief is given to able-bodied men; but in those marked with an asterisk (*) the full order is not in force, certain classes not being included in the order issued (such as able-bodied men without families).

2 May 1849.

Thirdly, I have estimates of the probable expense of collection, during the half-year ending the 29th of September 1849, of 32 Unions in Ireland, as furnished by the several Unions.

The same is delivered in.

ESTIMATES of the Probable Expenses and Collection during the Half-year ending 29th September 1849, of 32 Unions in *Ireland*, as furnished by the several Unions.

1. NAMES of UNIONS.	2. Net Debts at the Beginning of Half-year.	Estimated probable Expenses of the Half-year. 3. In Maintenance.	4. Out Relief.	5. All other ordinary Expenses.	6. Total Expenses, (Cols. 3–5.)	7. Average Amount per £. of such Expenses on the Valuation.	8. Total Debts and Expenses, (Cols. 2 & 6.)	9. Net Balance to Credit of Union over Debts at Beginning of Half-year.	10. Rate uncollected at Beginning of Half-year.	11. Total Amount of New Rates made at the Beginning of the Half-year, or proposed to be made during the Half-year.	12. Average Poundage of such Rates.	13. Total Amount which it is estimated will be collected during the Half-year of Arrears, and any new Rates.	14. Average Poundage of such estimated Collection on the Valuation.	15. Total estimated Assets, being the Amounts in Columns 9 & 13.	16. Excess of the Total estimated Expenses, (Col. 6.) over Total estimated Assets, (Col. 15.)	17. Excess of the Total estimated Assets, (Col. 15) over the Total estimated Expenses, (Col. 6.)
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.
Ballina	19,032	7,020	21,431	3,210	31,661	6 7½	50,693	—	4,043	9,116	2 –	6,579	1 4½	6,579	25,082	—
Ballinrobe	7,300	3,500	18,000	2,750	24,250	5 8½	31,550	—	7,873	23,677	5 6¾	5,200	1 2¾	5,200	19,050	—
Bantry	6,474	3,000	5,000	1,250	9,250	4 11¾	15,724	—	2,252	6,160	3 4	3,000	1 7½	3,000	6,250	—
Caherciveen	4,800	1,850	2,700	1,150	5,700	4 8½	10,500	—	456	5,500	5 –	3,000	2 5¾	3,000	2,700	—
Carrick-on-Shannon	7,525	3,016	5,450	1,200	9,666	3 1¾	17,191	—	5,150	9,680	3 3	3,000	– 11¼	3,000	6,666	—
Castlebar	9,931	2,569	9,500	2,800	14,869	6 3	24,800	—	8,184	12,590	5 –	5,000	2 –	5,000	9,869	—
Castlerea	3,000	5,000	10,000	3,000	18,000	7 –¾	21,000	—	15,076	17,000	3 –	8,000	3 1¾	8,000	10,000	—
Clifden	6,939	3,910	8,544	3,746	16,200	16 10½	23,139	—	1,345	2,997	3 –	330	– 4½	330	15,870	—
Dingle	5,002	2,132	4,160	910	7,202	4 11	12,204	—	3,800	3,941	2 8½	3,300	2 3	3,300	3,902	—
Ennistymon	12,948	3,711	13,478	2,500	19,689	5 10	32,637	—	11,237	10,638	3 4	10,000	2 11½	10,000	9,689	—
Galway	11,080	5,792	12,246	4,550	22,588	4 5½	33,668	—	10,033	—	—	600	– 1½	600	21,988	—
Glenties	1,270	1,530	942	600	3,072	3 9¼	4,342	—	464	—	—	264	– 4	264	2,808	—
Gort	11,028	3,000	5,000	2,000	10,000	3 9¼	21,028	—	3,902	—	—	600	– 3	600	9,400	—
Kenmare	25,596	2,900	5,687	1,900	10,487	8 6¾	36,083	—	3,740	1,328	4 –	4,000	3 3	4,000	6,487	—
Kilrush	13,068	3,780	17,550	1,802	23,132	7 9¾	36,200	—	2,878	11,180	3 8¼	8,000	2 8½	8,000	15,132	—
Mohill	1,964	1,972	5,969	1,788	9,729	3 3½	11,693	—	2,868	9,286	3 5	3,500	1 2¼	3,500	6,229	—
Roscommon	11,023	5,000	11,000	4,000	20,000	4 8	31,023	—	6,584	12,000	3 –	12,000	2 9½	12,000	8,000	—
Scariff	14,421	2,700	11,500	2,890	17,090	7 7¼	31,511	—	4,424	9,301	3 4	5,000	2 2¾	5,000	12,090	—
Sligo	2,166	4,500	3,500	2,390	10,390	1 5	12,556	—	7,613	18,226	2 5	3,000	– 5	3,000	7,390	—
Swineford	7,412	2,850	8,250	1,800	12,900	5 7½	20,312	—	6,242	11,541	5 –	4,500	1 11½	4,500	8,400	—
Tuam	5,401	5,480	12,231	3,042	20,753	4 11	26,154	—	6,036	—	—	4,000	1 –	4,000	16,753	—
Westport	3,664	4,185	15,000	4,000	23,185	11 11	26,849	—	4,061	6,503	3 4	1,800	– 11	1,800	21,385	—
Athlone	3,835	3,500	2,000	4,000	9,500	2 –	13,335	—	5,147	11,247	2 3	11,680	2 4	11,680	—	2,180
Boyle	1,796	2,781	4,768	1,653	9,202	2 4	10,998	—	6,249	12,406	3 1½	5,000	1 3¼	5,000	4,202	—
Cashel	9,273	5,000	9,351	5,839	20,190	3 1	29,463	—	8,304	24,089	3 8	20,000	3 –	20,000	190	—
Ennis	11,288	4,010	15,120	1,980	21,110	4 2¼	32,398	—	3,074	12,220	2 5	13,232	2 7¼	13,232	7,878	—
Enniskillen	—	3,120	50	1,705	4,875	1 –	4,875	2,018	2,716	9,500	2 –	5,000	1 1	7,018	—	2,143
Kanturk	—	4,095	9,783	3,492	17,370	3 4	17,370	2,725	3,185	19,420	2 –	7,500	1 5¼	10,225	7,145	—
Listowel	7,985	2,565	12,489	2,533	17,587	3 7½	25,572	—	5,714	18,018	3 8¾	12,100	2 6	12,100	5,487	—
Longford	1,400	3,000	5,000	2,000	10,000	1 8½	11,400	—	4,436	10,400	1 9	10,000	1 8⅓	10,000	—	—
Manor Hamilton	—	2,000	600	1,200	3,800	1 7¼	3,800	388	1,182	11,500	4 10¾	2,000	– 10¼	2,388	1,412	—
Thurles	4,550	1,807	5,556	3,927	11,290	2 –¾	15,840	—	5,556	12,560	2 3½	12,000	2 3	12,000	—	710
Totals £.	231,171	111,275	271,855	81,607	464,737	— —	695,908	5,131	165,824	313,024	— —	193,185	— —	198,316	271,454	5,033

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These returns were made, with the exception of one, by the Vice-Guardian or Inspector of the Union. Even with respect to the whole of the 32 Unions, the sums required for all the debts and expenses in the half-year ending September 1849 would be under 700,000*l.*; it would be 695,908*l.*, and of that sum 231,000*l.* were net debts; so that the sum really required to assist those Unions is comparatively very trifling indeed. In reference to this return, I wish to remark that it is wholly unnecessary that there should be a single death from starvation this year in the distressed Unions in Ireland. The machinery for the administration of relief is now tolerably complete, and all that is requisite is that the necessary funds should be furnished to those who are entrusted with the administration of the relief.

9405. That of course assumes as "necessary funds" the amount which, according to this estimate, would be found sufficient?
Yes.

9406. How much, upon this estimate, is the assumed collection of rate?
The assumed collection of rate amounts to 193,185*l.*

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

JOSEPH BEWLEY, Esquire, is called in, and examined as follows:

J. Bewley, Esq.

9407. YOU are a Member of the Society of Friends?
I am.

9408. You reside in Dublin?
Near Dublin; my residence is Sandford Hill, near Dublin.

9409. You are one of the Joint Secretaries of the Committee of the Society of Friends for the distribution of relief to the destitute poor of Ireland?
I have been one of the Joint Secretaries of the Dublin Relief Committee of the Society of Friends since its formation.

9410. Will you have the goodness to give the Committee some account of the proceedings taken by that committee with respect to the relief of destitution?
The committee was formed in the latter end of the year 1846; our view was then to concentrate and give a right direction to the efforts of members of our own Society, the Society of Friends; but when we were formed we found contributions coming in to the committee from various quarters, to a very large amount, particularly from the United States of America. The condition of the country at that time was one of actual famine; a failure of food; and our first efforts were to economize, as much as possible, the kinds of food which were in the country; we therefore directed our attention, in the first instance, to the fromation of soup depôts, and endeavoured by raising a local agency throughout the country to secure a just distribution of the relief which we were enabled to afford.

9411. Were you generally fortunate in the selection of your agents?
That was a point of considerable difficulty, and I would take the liberty of impressing upon the Committee the great difficulty in Ireland in effecting a judicious distribution of relief, for want of an adequate machinery,—the almost total want of a fit class of persons in the rural districts; we found ourselves at the outset met by that great difficulty.

9412. Did you find also a strong disposition to encroach upon you, on the part of those not in absolute want of relief?
No doubt it was greatly open to abuses, except by the exercise of very vigilant local control; we did succeed, by the aid of some deputations from our own body, in acquainting ourselves with various individuals in the country, of different ranks in life, who became most useful to us; and I may state that we found none more efficient than the Protestant clergy; the means they possessed, through the aid of their wives and daughters, of attending to the wants of the poor, rendered their services very valuable. The Roman Catholic clergy also were found, in many cases, exceedingly useful; they, however, had not the advantage

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of that help in their own households, of which I have just spoken, and therefore they were not so generally efficient agents in this matter.

9413. Have you reason to know that at that time when you received the charitable assistance of the clergy of both persuasions, many of those clergy were themselves suffering very severe privation indeed?

I do not think that at that time they were; they have since been suffering severe privation.

9414. During the time when they were suffering those severe privations, were their exertions in this work of charity and christian love continued for the benefit of the poor?

I believe they were.

9415. Was your relief generally given in food?

Almost universally; at first we did, to some extent, give money for the purpose of setting up boilers; we gave iron boilers, and we frequently made grants in aid of local funds, and local subscriptions for the purpose of establishing soup depôts. We made a considerable number of grants, mostly in small sums, to aid local efforts of that kind.

9416. It was chiefly cooked food?

We made it a point in almost all cases, that the food should be given to the consumers in a cooked state.

9417. You attach importance to that rule?

Great importance; the contrary course would open the door to very great abuses.

9418. What might be the nature of the food?

At that time cattle were at a very depressed value; the distress of the farmers compelled them to part with their cattle; sheep were, at that time, selling, in some parts of Connaught, for the sum of 5*s.* each. Animal food being thus cheap, and grain at a famine price, it became an object to promote the consumption of soup made from meat, with an admixture of meal. We also considered it of importance to extend the consumption of rice; we found that it was a very valuable corrective to the disease which then prevailed, in consequence of the use of unwholesome vegetable food; we had the most satisfactory testimony of the value of rice for this purpose, and consequently distributed a very large quantity.

9419. Do you know what the cost of the soup was per pint or per quart?

In many cases it was sold at what it cost, about one penny per quart.

9420. Where you could, you adopted the system of sale at cost price, rather than of gratuitous distribution?

Always; but that was a course which would not have met the wants of the most destitute.

9421. You have stated, that where you could you adopted the principle of assisting local contribution, rather than undertaking the whole yourselves; do you attach very great importance to that principle?

Very great importance.

9422. But there must, in the more remote regions, be great difficulty in applying that principle, as you had not there the means of obtaining local contributions?

That was the case.

9423. In cases where you were able to obtain local assistance, had it not the double effect of affording to you at once evidence of the existing distress which it might be necessary to relieve, and also of giving you a better chance of securing the due administration of the fund, which was a joint fund, to which the persons locally contributing had a direct interest to attend?

Clearly so.

9424. Is not that a principle which is well known in many of the Irish charities, such as dispensaries, and a variety of other cases, where local contribution is the foundation for extraneous help?

Yes;

Yes; it is the principle of the law regulating public grants to local dispensaries.

9425. And it is also the principle acted upon in the establishment of the National Schools in Ireland?

Very much so, I believe.

9426. Did you give clothes or blankets at all?

We did, to a considerable extent; we had sent to us clothing from various parts of Great Britain and America, to be distributed to the poor, to an amount which I have not the means of accurately ascertaining, perhaps from ten to fifteen thousand pounds worth.

9427. Did you employ the same individuals in distributing the clothing?

Nearly so; we availed ourselves more especially of the agency of females in our clothing grants; we found them the best almoners of this kind of relief.

9428. Is not the distribution of clothing more difficult to manage satisfactorily, as being more liable to abuse, than the distribution of food?

It is, in consequence of the facility of pawning; we endeavoured to guard against that as far as we could; we issued strict regulations and instructions, which we believe tended to a considerable extent to prevent an improper use of the clothing; the articles were also branded with the name of our committee.

9429. Did you ever try the system of lending blankets for the winter?

I am not aware that we enjoined such a course; but our correspondents may, nevertheless, in some cases have adopted it.

9430. Were your exertions confined altogether to any particular province in Ireland, or did they extend to the four provinces?

We considered ourselves bound to comprehend the whole, inasmuch as the contributions sent to us were for a national purpose; we did not feel ourselves at liberty to confine our distribution to any one province or district.

9431. Had you applications only from the more distressed parts of Ireland, namely, the West and South, or had you applications that recommended themselves to your notice from other parts of Ireland?

In the early part of our labours, the applications were comparatively few from the province of Leinster, and from the better parts of Ulster and Munster; but they became very numerous after a few months, and we made considerable issues in those districts.

9432. Will you state what the amounts of the grants were, which you made in the respective provinces?

The total grants to Ulster appear to have been 21,660*l.*; to Leinster, 9,610*l.*; to Connaught, 41,170*l.*; and to Munster, 79,100*l.*; the total being 151,540*l.* Perhaps I should observe with regard to the larger issue in Munster than in Connaught, that it arose from our having in Munster four very efficient auxiliary committees, members of the Society of Friends, in the towns of Cork, Waterford, Limerick and Clonmel, and in consequence facilities were afforded for the distribution in that province which were not afforded in Connaught. The distress in Connaught was upon the whole much greater; it was one of the difficulties of that locality, that in those districts where the distress was most marked, the means of distribution by trustworthy hands were the fewest.

9433. Can you state in how many of the nine counties of Ulster you found it necessary to give relief?

We gave relief in all; but the principal demand was from Donegal.

9434. In how many of the 12 counties of Leinster were you required to give relief?

We gave relief in all the counties; but the principal issues were in King's County and in the county of Dublin.

9435. In fact, you were called upon to give relief in the whole of the 32 counties of Ireland, more or less?

We were; not, however, at a very early period of the distress, but in the lapse

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of time the distress became more general. There was a class of persons to whom in the earlier part of the calamity we should not have thought of granting aid, who afterwards became destitute in consequence of the general impoverishment of the country.

9436. Have you reason to believe that in many cases persons who, in the commencement of your operations, had been rate-payers, contributing to the rates, became, under the pressure of distress, recipients of relief, and applicants to your agents?
I believe that to have been the case.

9437. Your operations commenced in 1846?
In the latter end of 1846. We did not begin to make any considerable issues till the beginning of 1847.

9438. From the correspondence which you have carried on, and the reports made to you by your own agents, what do you consider to have been the state of things in the year 1848, with relation to the pressure of distress, as compared with the year antecedent?
The distress, I should think, was not much less; but the state of things was essentially different; provisions were, in the latter year, abundant and cheap, and there was in existence the New Poor Law. From those causes, there did not appear to us to be a necessity for that distribution being continued, in which we were engaged in 1847.

9439. You were asked with respect to the difficulties you had in administering relief; were any of the supplies that were sent you from America in the shape of Indian corn, or were they all in flour?
Chiefly in Indian corn and meal; Indian meal chiefly.

9440. Did you find, from the correspondence that you had, and the agencies which you established, that the difficulties to the introduction of cereal food in substitution for the potato food, which had failed, were augmented in those remote districts by the want of milling power?
I do not think that we were met by that difficulty, because our chief supply was meal. The quantity of corn sent to us was comparatively small; but that such was the fact I have no doubt.

9441. Were you aware that in many parts of Ireland they endeavoured to restore the use of the old quern, from the want of other means of reducing grain into flour?
Yes, I have heard so; and I know that steel hand-mills were supplied in some parts of the country.

9442. Do you think that, besides the temporary and immediate benefits that were produced by your exertions, any permanent advantageous results have been produced?
No, the contrary.

9443. On what ground have you come to that opinion?
It may be attributed to the effect of public almsgiving having in itself a tendency to degrade the character, to destroy independence, to deteriorate the condition of the people, I would say, both morally and physically.

9444. Do you consider that amongst the national defects of character which have been attributed to the Irish people, a want of self-exertion and self-reliance is amongst those which may be considered as charges fairly brought?
I am afraid it is so at present, to some extent.

9445. But endeavours were made by you to excite in the people a spirit of enterprise and industry, were there not?
When the time arrived for abridging our gratuitous issues, we considered it of the utmost importance to promote industrial habits; and we made many grants in aid of manufacturing undertakings.

9446. And improvements in husbandry?
Yes; we expended considerable sums in spade-labour.

9447. Will you describe the agricultural experiments which you made in the Province of Connaught?
We found that in the Union of Ballina, which was one of the worst in that part of Ireland, there were many thousands of labourers absolutely without resources, without employment, and depending upon the Poor Law, and other gratuitous relief. We thought it better to give them employment than to give them food for nothing. We accordingly arranged with several proprietors of estates there to place at our disposal a considerable quantity of land, in detached farms, about 900 statute acres altogether, which they gave free of rent for one year, also undertaking to pay the poor-rates; we undertaking to pay the county-rates; they gave it to us free of every charge but county-rates. We then expended a very large sum in spade-labour; the ground was cropped chiefly with turnips; also with carrots, parsnips, peas, beans and other green crops, and about 50 acres of flax. This operation afforded employment for a time to a very large number of persons, and was also very useful in instructing the small farmers and labourers in the proper mode of culture of these crops. It was done chiefly by task-work; but we found in that instance, as in other instances, very considerable difficulties in managing it, for want of the local assistance which such operations especially demand. The result was, that there was an improvident expenditure; the work was not done economically.

9448. Do you know what wages the people were enabled to earn by task-work?
I think they earned about 8*d.* a day, upon the average.

9449. How many men were employed to the acre?
I am unable to say.

9450. How did the balance of the account stand?
On the wrong side, very much indeed.

9451. And that, notwithstanding the fact, that you were subject to no rent or poor-rates for the land?
Yes: there were several causes concurred to render it an unprofitable undertaking; one was a considerable loss sustained by a mistake in the turnip-seed; a large quantity, sown as Swedish turnip, proved to be common white turnip; the crop of which sold for about one-third of the price of Swedish turnip.

9452. Would you say that the failure of that experiment is to be looked upon as conclusive against the adoption of the system of spade-husbandry?
No; so far from it, we are at present making advances to Colonel Knox Gore, a considerable proprietor of land in the neighbourhood of Ballina: he has taken up money from us for the purpose of cultivating 100 Irish acres with the spade, and putting in green crops on his own account, undertaking to repay the amount advanced, without interest, in 12 months.

9453. Do you connect the loss of profit, which you state to have arisen in the case you have mentioned, with the fact of those works being undertaken by you, partly for the purposes of the relief to be given to the parties employed upon the work, instead of being undertaken upon pure agricultural and commercial principles?
I think I must attribute it to the impossibility of managing the expenditure economically by parties residing in Dublin.

9454. In the case of Colonel Knox Gore, has he submitted to you any calculations of the probable expenditure and probable receipts?
Accurate estimates were furnished to us before it was commenced. He also furnishes us with weekly returns of the number of persons employed, and the expenditure in money.

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COPY of ESTIMATE furnished by Colonel *A. Knox Gore* in reference to the Culture by Spade-labour of 100 Irish Acres of Land on his Estate in the County of *Mayo*. The operation to embrace two years; the first year's crop to be Turnips, and the second year Oats.

CULTIVATION:

ESTIMATE for the 1st year, 1849 (one Irish Acre under Swedish Turnips):

	£.	s.	d.
Digging (twice)	2	–	–
Drilling, putting in manure, and seeding	2	5	–
Manure	3	–	–
After culture	–	10	–
Taxes	–	7	6
£.	8	2	6

ESTIMATE for the Second Year, 1850 (one Irish Acre under Oats):

	£.	s.	d.
Digging	–	10	–
Seed	–	15	–
Harrowing and rolling	–	5	–
Grass seeds	1	5	–
Taxes, and rent 20/	1	7	6
£.	4	2	6

Produce for Two Years, the Irish Acre:

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
15 Tons of turnips (Swedes) at 15/ p' ton	11	5	–			
24 Cwt. of oats – – – – – 5/ p' cwt.	6	–	–			
				17	5	–
Expenses for 1st year (as above)	8	2	6			
Ditto – 2d – ditto – ditto	4	2	6			
				12	5	–
Estimated Profit per Irish Acre, on two years' Cultivation – £.				5	–	–

Note.—The Relief Committee of the Society of Friends, in Dublin, having agreed to advance to Colonel Gore the sum of 800 *l.* on loan for the purpose of carrying out this undertaking, it is accordingly at present in progress; and herewith is a statement, showing the number of hands employed, and the rate of wages for each week since the operations commenced.

RELIEF COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY OF FRIENDS.

STATEMENT showing the Number employed WEEKLY, and the DAILY RATE of WAGES on Colonel *A. Knox Gore's* Land at *Ballina*, under Advances of Money on Loan by this Committee.

Week ending	Men.	Boys and Women.	Men and Boys at Task-work.	Children.	TOTAL.
1849:					
3d Month – March 17	468, at 6*d.* per day –	40 boys and women, at 4*d.* –	150 men, 8*d.* – and boys, 5*d.* –	– – –	658
„ 24	763 – ditto – –	433 boys, at 4*d.* – – –	100 – ditto – –	– – –	1,296
„ 31	565 – ditto – –	91 – ditto – – – –	120 – ditto – –	40, at 3*d.* –	776
4th Month – April 7	607 – ditto – –	50 – ditto – – – –	160 – ditto – –	54 – ditto –	817
„ 14	282 – ditto – –	28 boys and women, at 4*d.* –	200 men, 7*d.* – and boys, 5*d.* –	14 – ditto –	524
„ 21	310 – ditto – –	26 boys, at 4*d.* – – –	100 – ditto – –	31 – ditto –	467
„ 28	189 – ditto – –	40 boys and women, at 4*d.* –	130 – ditto – –	24 – ditto –	383
5th Month – May 5	262 – ditto – –	38 boys, at 4*d.* – – –	186 – ditto – –	29 – ditto –	515
„ 12	120 – ditto – –	50 women, at 4*d.* – – 60 boys, at 3*d.* – – – 110	100 men at 7*d.* –	– – –	330

9455. You were satisfied, when you advanced the money, that, as far as probabilities went, there was reason to expect a favourable result?
Decidedly; there is a very fair prospect of profit.

9456. In the former case, to what account did you turn the proceeds of those lands when the period of harvest came?
The proceeds went into our general fund.

9457. Did you sell them?
Yes; the turnips were sold chiefly to the peasantry, by retail; we sent an agent down for the purpose. The value of this supply of food to the peasantry was strongly urged upon us by the neighbouring gentry, and we sent down an agent to attend to the sale on the spot; he retailed the produce, chiefly turnips, to the poor, who came distances of eight or ten miles to make small purchases.

9458. You cultivated turnips, parsnips, carrots, peas, beans and other articles; did you experience any difficulty in disposing of that produce in that mode in the distressed districts?
We found but little difficulty in selling the turnips in the way that I have stated; we had to ship a quantity of carrots and parsnips to Glasgow. They were not saleable in the country; the people did not seem to understand or value them.

9459. Do you know what the return was per acre?
I think the turnips were reported to us to have averaged about 20 tons per acre.

9460. Was there not an analogous experiment tried by you in the county of Galway?
Yes, we left the management of that to the owner, Lord Wallscourt.

9461. Was that carried on under the superintendence of Mr. Skelling, who had formerly been the agent in Dublin to the Commissioners of Education?
It was; he is a very intelligent and able agriculturist. It was a successful experiment, and managed very much to our satisfaction.

9462. Have any other cases occurred, in which you have advanced or are about to advance money for the carrying on this experiment in spade husbandry?
We have advanced 350*l.*, within the last few months, to George Sidney Smith, D. D., of Brookborough, in the county of Fermanagh, on condition of his cultivating 50 Irish acres by spade labour, with crops approved by us, with every prospect of its yielding a profitable result.

9463. Did he also submit to you calculations of the probable cost and of the probable receipts?
Yes, they must have been satisfactory; the committee would not have made the advance of money had it not been shown to be a legitimate undertaking, with a fair prospect of profit; but I have not the materials here to give the details.

9464. Are you able to lay before the Committee any cases in which satisfactory results have already attended the experiment?
In the county of Galway, in the case of Lord Wallscourt, last year, the results were very satisfactory.

9465. Was there a remunerating profit, after deducting all the expenses?
We had a statement from his steward, showing the proceeds of the crops of the year; exhibiting, according to my present recollection, a considerable profit; and upon that result we concluded to renew to him the advance for a second operation of the same kind this year.

9466. Could you give the Committee any return of the amount of expense of spade cultivation, as compared with cultivation by means of the plough, drill and harrow?
I think I could find those details amongst our accounts in Dublin, but I have them not here.

9467. Can you also give the amount of the produce on the same land under the two different kinds of cultivation?
I can give the Committee both Thomas Skilling's and Colonel Gore's estimates.

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9468. In relation to these agricultural experiments, which you have described to the Committee, do you consider that they establish any general result as to the advantage of pursuing that system, or that they go no further than exhibiting a better mode of administering relief than by gratuitous distribution during a period of peculiar pressure?

I think they do, to a considerable extent, establish the latter; of the former I should speak with more diffidence, for I am not myself a practical farmer.

9469. Was not the old mode of cultivating the potato in Ireland almost exclusively by spade labour?

By the small cottier, almost exclusively.

9470. And even, to a certain extent, by the farmers themselves?

I believe so.

9471. As agriculture has improved in Ireland, has not the practice of drilling potatoes with the plough, and taking them out by the plough, superseded the other in those parts of the county where improved modes of cultivation have been adopted?

I should think it has, to a considerable extent.

9472. Do not you think that arises out of the larger return of profit which connects itself with plough husbandry than that which connected itself with spade husbandry?

Doubtless it does, to some extent; but in the districts where that improved mode of culture is pursued, the cost of labour is higher than in Connaught.

9473. Have you now in view the prospect of a more lasting experiment of an agricultural kind founded upon a different principle, namely, that of improving the knowledge of agriculture, and improving, consequently, the condition of the labourer?

We have.

9474. Will you describe what this is?

We were repeatedly urged to undertake the management of a farm or farms permanently in the West of Ireland, but we felt considerable hesitation in doing so, considering that our constitution as a Relief committee was but of a temporary character. However, the importance of giving an impulse to that branch of industry did impress us so forcibly, that we have lately formed a permanent committee for that object, and a set of trustees are appointed to take charge of a portion of our funds recently appropriated to that purpose. We have placed 12,000 *l.* at their disposal, for the purpose of conducting permanently a model farm or farms and agricultural school. Our Model Farm committee have taken, on a long lease, about 650 statute acres of land in the county of Galway.

9475. Do you propose to place it under the superintendence of a skilful agriculturist, who shall be charged at once with the cultivation of the farm and with the instruction of the pupils?

That is the course pursued.

9476. Have you formed your plans for the agricultural buildings upon the farm?

They were under consideration when I left Dublin. An architect was employed to consider the plans furnished by our superintendent.

9477. You say that the extent of the proposed farm is about 650 statute acres; do you recollect what the estimate of the proposed buildings is?

About 3,000 *l.*, including the dwelling-house for the superintendent.

9478. And the school for instruction?

We do not begin that at present; we wait till we realize profits before we undertake that part of our project.

9479. In the meanwhile, does it come within your expectation that the establishment of a model farm of that description in Ireland, conducted by a skilful agriculturist, must necessarily of itself furnish a school for agricultural instruction?

It would, to a great extent; but, besides the exhibition of good modes of farming, we look to the direct instruction of young men, by training them as farm-servants and land-stewards.

9480. You are aware that an agricultural school has long been established in the North of Ireland, at Templemoyle?
Yes.

9481. You have been in communication with them, probably, to get hints for the management of your future establishment?
We have not yet entered upon any arrangements towards the organization of the school.

9482. Are you able to inform the Committee whether the Templemoyle establishment has turned out a considerable number of young men, who by reason of that instruction in agriculture have been able to obtain an independent mode of support for themselves?
I have always understood that it has been attended with very useful results.

9483. Has not the same consequence shown itself in the model farm which is now carried on under the superintendence of the Commissioners of Education at Glasnevin?
I believe it also to be a very useful undertaking.

9484. Was the attention of the Society of Friends directed also to the question of fisheries, as well as to the question of agricultural improvements?
It was. We considered the fisheries as having one of the first claims upon our assistance.

9485. As furnishing an immediate supply of food?
Both on that ground and because of the extreme destitution of the people on some parts of the coast.

9486. What was the course that you adopted in relation to the fisheries along the coast?
In the first instance, we made sundry small advances to trustworthy parties for loans to fishermen; in some instances with decidedly useful results. It was always in the way of loans, and the money, in many cases, was punctually and fully repaid.

9487. Where the loan system is applicable, do not you conceive that that system is a much more advantageous one, with a view both to ensure the industry of the party and the moral results attending the punctual discharge of engagements, than by distributing the same amount gratuitously?
In anything connected with commercial operations, gratuitous assistance is decidedly objectionable, for it places the party receiving assistance in an unfair position, as regards others who have not that assistance.

9488. Independently of that, is not there a greater impulse given to the industry of the party, assuming honesty of intention, where the assistance given is by means of a loan to be repaid, than where it is by a grant of money for which the party is subject to no such responsibility?
I have no doubt that it is a stimulus to exertion, where there is a right moral feeling.

9489. Did you send round an agent to visit the Western coast?
We found such conflicting reports as to the productiveness of the fisheries, that we considered it important to have an inspection made of the state of the fishing-grounds along the coast; accordingly, one of our committee proceeded in a vessel properly appointed for that purpose, and visited most if not all the fishing-grounds on the Western and Southern coasts.

9490. What was the result of that inspection, with a view to the ascertainment of the productive powers of the Western fisheries?
I must acknowledge that so far as his observation extended, at some particular localities at least, they had been over-rated; but there are very productive fishing-grounds on various parts of the Irish coast; that is satisfactorily ascertained.

9491. Did that inspection comprehend the deep-sea fishery, as well as the coast and harbour fishery?
Chiefly the coast and harbour fishery.

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9492. Was the result of the whole such as to convince you that there was a considerable supply of human food in the shape of fish available along the Western coast?
We can entertain no doubt of that fact.

9493. The quantity and the quality are such as that, in your judgment, it would be available as an article of productive commerce?
There can be no doubt of it, not only as an article of productive commerce, but a most valuable addition to the available food of the country.

9494. What are the difficulties which stand in the way of the development of the resources along the Western coast?
The chief difficulty I apprehend to be the present prostrate condition of the people.

9495. And the want of a market?
Also the want of local markets; if there was a large capture of fish, there is no adequate demand for them upon some parts of the coast.

9496. Is the destitute position of the people manifested in the want of boats, fishing-tackle, and other appliances which are requisite for the prosecution of their trade as fishermen?
It is so in many cases.

9497. Did you find any disposition on the part of the population on the coast to avail themselves of any assistance which you gave them in those respects?
There was a great anxiety in general; we had many applications from parties interested in the improvement of the condition of their tenantry and the people around them, and we endeavoured to select from amongst them such as we thought we could depend upon as being not only trustworthy, but also possessing habits of business; for it requires good habits of business to qualify a person to undertake anything of the kind successfully.

9498. But confining the question to the poor fishermen themselves, who might be supposed from want of means to be debarred from the prosecution of their line of industry, was there manifested on their part a disposition, if those means were supplied to them, of making their industry, as fishermen, productive?
I think there was to a certain extent; we met with some disappointments in this respect; we found that the people were not always so alive as they ought to be to the necessity of exertion; that they were so discouraged by the prevalence of distress as to produce a state of feeling approaching to apathy.

9499. Is not there some indisposition on the part of the fishermen, upon some parts of the Western coast, especially the Claddagh fishermen in the Bay of Galway, to allow of the introduction of any improved system?
I believe there is; the Claddagh fishermen are a peculiar class of people; they are not easily dealt with; but our London committee (for we have been in close correspondence, from our commencement, with a committee of the Society of Friends in London, having similar objects to our own,) have latterly taken the Claddagh fishermen particularly under their care; they have sent a person from Cornwall, an experienced fisherman, to live at Galway, and to endeavour to introduce a better mode of fishing amongst the Claddagh people, and we have had very satisfactory reports of his success; he has been well received there; and he has established a curing-house in the town, which, I understand, is at present doing well.

9500. Do you not think that any sluggishness or inertness, which you have described as existing on the part of the fishermen, may be in whole or in part attributable to the want of curing-houses, in the first instance, to prepare their fish for market, and also to the want of rapid communication for the purpose of conveying this perishable commodity to a market where it would find an easy and advantageous sale?
I think that those unfavourable symptoms I have alluded to will disappear under a judicious course of treatment; I think their character will be greatly improved by the well-directed exertions of those placed over them; they are quite susceptible of improvement.

9501. What are the nearest markets where you think there would be any likelihood of any demand for fish?

The great object would be, if possible, to have access to the metropolis; I know hardly anything more likely to contribute to the development of the resources of the West coast of Ireland than a railway from Galway to Dublin; it would be of great national importance.

9502. What size are the boats that they now have?

They have two descriptions of boats, hookers and pinnaces. I should suppose the hookers to be generally about 10 or 12 tons burden, perhaps rather larger.

9503. How many men have they on board to man them?

I should think five to seven men.

9504. Are you aware of any efforts that have been of late made to turn the railway accommodation now existing, from Mallow to Dublin, to the purpose of transmitting fish for the supply of the Dublin market?

I have recently heard that one of our correspondents on the coast of the county of Cork, near Cape Clear, has made arrangements for transmitting the produce of his fisheries to Dublin *viâ* Mallow, under a contract with the Great Southern and Western Railway Company for cheap carriage.

9505. From what has been reported to you of the prices at which fish, even of a luxurious character, such as turbots, are procured upon the Western coast, and knowing from experience, probably, the prices of those fish in Dublin, have you any doubt that the transmission will be both beneficial to the fisherman and advantageous to the Dublin consumers?

We know that fine turbots are often sold upon the coast for a few pence, which would be worth half a guinea or more in the Dublin market.

9506. What distance would it be by railway from Galway to Dublin?

It is 104 Irish miles; there is a railway at present as far as Mullingar, which is likely to be completed to Athlone before very long.

9507. Can you state in about what time they would in all probability be able to convey the fish from Galway to Dublin?

In about six to eight hours, judging from the present rate of travelling by railway in Ireland.

9508. Can you state to the Committee any experiments respecting fisheries that have been tried upon the South-eastern part of the coast of Ireland at Cork and Waterford?

I would advert to a fishery at the small village of Ring, near Helvick Head, in the county of Waterford.

9509. Has that been successful?

It has been eminently so.

9510. If there be any falling off in the immediate home-market, may not that be attributable not only to the diminished resources of the country, but to the loss of the potato, which was the usual accompaniment or addition to salt-fish as an article of food?

Undoubtedly; as an illustration of this, I may mention what appears to be a very extraordinary fact, that herrings taken in large quantity in the neighbourhood of Cork, were at one time during the prevalence of the recent famine found absolutely worthless; the people would not buy them because they had not potatoes to eat with them.

9511. Although you have stated that the efforts which your society, in common with others, have humanely made, have been, as an incident to the relief that they have given, attended with consequences of an exceptionable kind, arising from its being charitable relief, may they not still be very important as directing the attention of the public to profitable sources of industry, and the means of improving the condition of the people upon sound commercial and industrial principles?

I would hope that the result of the experience of the last two years and a half will be very valuable in any future period of distress of a similar character.

9512. Independently of that, supposing the efforts which you have made on the subject of fisheries and on the subject of agriculture should teach the people

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to be better fishermen and more skilful agriculturists, will not that lead to the introduction of new and better plans for the improvement of their condition when the necessity (if it shall so please God) for their relief shall cease?

I hope so; I would hope that the calamity under which we have been suffering will be overruled for good in that way as well as others; I do entertain that hope under all our present discouragements. In reference to the services of our society, I wish to say that these services have been greatly overrated; we have not done what has by any means deserved the encomiums passed upon us; we have merely endeavoured to perform a very simple duty.

9513. But do not you think that those who contributed the funds which you have been administering abroad and at home, deserve every encomium for their liberal and generous assistance?

We owe a large debt of gratitude, under Divine Providence, to our benefactors in Great Britain and America; the exertions made by the citizens of the United States have been such as can scarcely be sufficiently appreciated.

9514. Have your correspondents led you to know that the calamity of Ireland was deeply and sensibly felt at the time throughout the whole of the Union?

It was so even in some of the most remote districts; we had letters from places in the remote West that we had previously hardly heard of, manifesting deep sympathy; the supplies were to an extent altogether unexpected by us.

9515. Has that sympathy not only manifested itself in the supplies of food and charitable relief, which were administered through your agency, but also in large remittances of money from America, to assist the emigration of friends and relations of those who had been successful emigrants in time past?

It is a very remarkable feature of the emigration from Ireland to America, that relatives who have gone abroad, have, to an extent almost incredible, remitted money to their kindred at home for the purpose either of assisting them at home or enabling them to emigrate. I believe that the amount sent in that way surpasses what we have any idea of.

9516. Did the parties to whom that assistance was sent gladly avail themselves of it for the purpose of emigration?

I should think they are universally anxious to do so.

9517. It is presumed that the exertions of the Society of Friends in Dublin have naturally made them the channels through which the various applications for relief have been made?

There has been a great disposition in our poor fellow country-people to cast themselves on us for relief.

9518. Are you able, from any evidence which you have received, to state whether there is, at the present moment, a very strong desire for emigration on the part of any considerable number of the Irish people?

There is no doubt whatever of that fact.

9519. Is there any difficulty which stands in the way, and impedes the progress of the more necessitous emigrants?

Perhaps I could not better illustrate this than by stating what has come to my knowledge since I came to this city a few days since: an application has been sent to me from an Inspector of one of the Western Poor Law Unions, stating, that a number of poor persons, who are chargeable on the rates, have had their passages paid for them by their friends in America, but being totally unprovided with means for an outfit of clothing and provisions for the voyage, they are unable to avail themselves of the proffered benefit; and their intended voyage being to the United States, there is no power to assist them under the Poor Law. I believe the provision for aid to emigration under the Poor Law is confined to the British Colonies. The application is for the purpose of ascertaining whether we can grant any funds to enable these poor people to avail themselves of the means of transport provided for them by their friends abroad.

9520. By the public Returns, which are before Parliament, it appears that, notwithstanding such difficulties, the amount of the existing emigration is very considerable; does that emigration, to any extent, consist of parties of a different class, who are enabled to provide for themselves, and to pay for their passage?

To

To a very large extent; a great many substantial farmers are giving up their land, and the aggregate of the capital they carry out with them must amount to a considerable sum.

9521. Does the emigration of that class of persons who are enterprising, and who, by leaving the country, withdraw from Ireland a larger proportionate amount of capital than they withdraw of numbers, tend to lessen or to increase the existing causes of distress in Ireland?

I should say it would tend to increase them.

9522. Must it not necessarily lessen the amount of funds, which would otherwise be directly or indirectly spent in the employment of labour?

Undoubtedly.

9523. Is not the disproportion between the funds which are employed in labour, and the number of persons who are seeking for employment as labourers, one of the most immediate and pressing causes of distress now in Ireland?

Certainly; that I conceive involves one of the most interesting and important problems connected with the improvement of the material condition of our country.

9524. Do you consider that the increased emigration of those who are possessors of capital, and who, on leaving the country, surrender lands which they had previously cultivated, and who are of the more enterprising class that you have described, arises from the depressed state of affairs in Ireland, and the uncertainty of the profits of cultivation, connected with the possibility of the augmentation and progressive increase of the local charges and rates?

I believe that these causes have, to a considerable extent, contributed to produce a desire for emigration on the part of the class alluded to, as well as others.

9525. Is it not connected, to a certain extent, with the consolidation of farms and the diminished number of tenants consequent upon it, and the number of changes of possession that take place?

There can be no doubt of that.

9526. Does not the existence of a great pauper class, in the agricultural districts, more especially in those of Connaught, cast an uncertainty and insecurity upon the agricultural operations of that country, which would induce an enterprising farmer to seek some other place and some other manner of employing his resources and investing his capital?

These results would unquestionably follow, if the present state of things were to continue; but I hope that the limitation of the Poor Law assessment, and other measures now in progress through Parliament, will have a very good effect in the contrary direction.

9527. Have you known any members of your society in this country, whose thoughts have been turned towards the investment of capital in Ireland in the purchase of land?

Not to any considerable extent; at present I do not know more than one individual who has recently taken, not by purchase, but at an annual rent, upon a long lease, a pretty large tract of land near Clifden, in the county of Galway. His motive, I understand, is not so much to realize a profit for himself in the cultivation of the land, as to promote the improvement of the moral and social condition of the people.

9528. Supposing that, either for a friend or for yourself, you were desirous of investing money in the improvement of Irish land, and that you had two estates offered to you, one which was over-peopled in proportion to the means of employing those people, while, on the other, there was only an amount of population adequate and proportionate to the wants of agriculture, which of those two estates would you be disposed to invest in?

Were the sole object a profitable investment of capital, there can be no doubt whatever that the latter would be chosen.

9529. From facts which have come to your knowledge, and from the observations which you yourself have made, are there not many districts in Ireland in which the subdivision of land is so extreme, and the multiplication of pauper

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population so great, as to afford no inducement, except upon the condition of lessening the amount of population, to try to improve the land, and to cultivate it with advantage?

That is a difficult question for me to answer. It has not been my lot to have much to do with the management of landed property.

9530. Can you put in a copy of your general Report of the operations of the Relief Committee of the Society of Friends?

We have not yet made up a final Report of our operations. This is a Report published nearly a year since (*producing the same*); the figures at foot bring up the amount of the receipts and disbursements to the 31st of Third month (March) last.

The same is delivered in.

DISTRESS IN IRELAND.

Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends,
43, Fleet-street, Dublin, 19th of Sixth Month 1848.

Although a prolonged state of distress in several parts of Ireland, and the continued supplies poured in upon us from abroad with unexampled liberality, render it impossible yet to close our labours, and to furnish our constituents with a full account of the distribution of their bounty; yet the lapse of more than a year and half since we entered upon the administration of the large fund entrusted to us, demands that some account of our proceedings, and of the present state of our accounts, should be laid before the subscribers.

Reserving more minute details for a future Report, we present herewith a statement of our receipts and issues, in money and food, from the time of our appointment, in Eleventh month 1846, to the 1st of Fifth month 1848.

This statement exhibits the amount hitherto allocated for relief in each county and province of Ireland. It is to be observed that these divisions consist of a great number of minor districts, whose claims required to be individually considered. In most cases applications were many times renewed, and successive grants made. Thus, the distribution of 142,665 *l.* throughout the several counties was effected by upwards of 8,900 separate grants, the average value of each grant having been about 15 *l.* 18 *s.* Of these grants, about 3,500 were made at the central office in Dublin, and about 5,400 by our auxiliaries in Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Clonmel.

The management of the local distribution has been entrusted to individuals or committees in the respective districts, whom we believed to be efficient and trustworthy; and in the selection of these channels of relief, as well as in every other branch of our administration, we have no hesitation in stating that the strictest impartiality has been observed.

It is obvious that a large amount of labour must have devolved on those engaged in conducting a business, comprehending not only the distribution of so considerable a fund, but the receipt and management of the vast supplies of provisions placed at our disposal by the munificence of the citizens of the United States, consisting of nearly 100 separate shipments or cargoes, many of which were landed at various outports. A well-arranged system of management and of accounts was, therefore, necessary to ensure due regularity in all the details, and afford facility hereafter for any scrutiny to which our transactions may be subjected. Of the extent of the correspondence growing out of the several departments of the concern, some idea may be formed, when we state that the number of letters received and despatched at our office in Dublin, in the course of the 18 months embraced in the present Report, was upwards of 37,000. Our endeavour has been to conduct the business at the smallest possible cost, without a sacrifice of efficiency; and in this we have been greatly aided by the gratuitous services of several friends, who have devoted their time with much diligence to the work. A considerable number of paid clerks have, however, been indispensable; and we have only to express our hope, that, having reference to the magnitude and diversified character of the business entrusted to us, the expenses of management will be considered moderate.

We are here bound to acknowledge the important assistance afforded to us in the care and distribution of the American supplies, by the liberal arrangements of our Government. Nearly one-half of these consignments, arriving at a period when the Commissariat Relief Department was in operation, were received into its depôts without expense to us. From this accommodation, and the obliging manner in which the officers employed in the several branches of the public service, with whom we have been brought into communication, have co-operated with us, not only has a large saving been effected in our expenses, but facilities have been afforded for the correct transaction of our business, which we could not otherwise have enjoyed.

In explanation of the money-value affixed to the consignments of provisions from America in the annexed account, we may state, that in general the figures represent very nearly the actual market-value of the provisions on arrival, freight and charges paid. It is well known that

that the freight has been, in all cases, paid by our Government. In some instances it became necessary to sell the food, and in these cases the amount of money received is, of course, that which appears in our books.

Referring to the proportion of our funds allotted to the several districts, we may observe that whilst there has been a conscientious endeavour to make an equitable distribution, it is not pretended that in all cases the amount expended in each county has been in the precise ratio of the distress. The strict application of such a rule was rendered impracticable by various circumstances. In all cases it was needful to keep in view the Government measures, and those of the other relief associations, as well as the local resources which were or ought to be forthcoming; but the cause which above all others has obstructed an equal participation in the relief, has been the want of a sufficient number of suitable hands to administer it in some of the most distressed districts. It will be perceived that a much larger share of our funds has been distributed in the province of Munster than in Connaught. It is true that in the western parts of the county of Cork, and in the counties of Kerry and Clare, the famine was as sore as in any part of Ireland; but in extremity of want, and extent of destitution, the province of Connaught unquestionably presented, upon the whole, the darkest shade of distress. It is very difficult for those who are not intimately acquainted with the state of that province, to conceive how completely that machinery is wanting, in its extensive rural districts, which, in a well-ordered community, can be made available for investigating and administering to the wants of the poor. From this cause, it has been found impossible in some parts of Connaught to carry out by private agency any comprehensive measures of relief. The larger distribution of our funds in Munster has been mainly owing to the greater amount of local co-operation, superintended and aided as it has been by our efficient auxiliary committees of friends in the towns of Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Clonmel.

We now turn from the past to our present operations. Under the extreme pressure of famine with which we had to deal for a considerable time after our appointment, the prominent object was to devise the most prompt and effectual measures for averting starvation. The dearth of food was generally attempted to be met by the formation of depôts, where soup and other kinds of cooked provisions were gratuitously distributed; but the hurtful tendency of gratuitous relief in pauperizing the people was too apparent to permit the continuance of such a system beyond the period of urgent need; and accordingly, as the suffering gradually abated, and a more comprehensive Poor Law came into operation, it became our anxious endeavour to apply the residue of the means entrusted to us to such objects as were most likely, whilst affording present relief, to have a direct bearing upon the permanent improvement of the condition of the people, in promoting productive industry, and developing the resources of the country. With this view, we have for some months past very much discontinued gratuitous issues of food, for purposes of general relief, and have chiefly confined our grants to some suffering districts, for the purpose of affording nourishment to sick and convalescent persons and their helpless children, who may not be adequately relieved under the existing Poor Law. We intend to adhere to this system.

Considerable grants have been recently made, and are still in progress, in aid of an extension of the fisheries on the Western and Southern Coasts. This is a branch of national industry which promises beyond most others to reward the enterprise of the intelligent and persevering; it also possesses the important advantage, in those parts where the produce of the land is insufficient for the support of its population, of being productive of immediate supplies of wholesome food. Our assistance has chiefly consisted of loans to parties who have undertaken to act in conformity to regulations carefully framed with a view to the interests of both owners and crews of the boats employed. We consider that the obligation to repayment out of actual earnings will be a stimulus to industry, and lay the foundation for a more healthy prosecution of the trade than if it were nurtured by a system of gratuities. The principal stations thus assisted are as follow:—

Belmullet	- County of Mayo.	Dingle Bay	- County of Kerry.
Achill Sound	- ditto.	Bere Island	- County of Cork.
Ballinakill	- County of Galway.	Castle Townsend	- ditto.
Killery Harbour	- ditto.	Helvick Head	- County of Waterford.

Grants of improved fishing-tackle and clothing have been made at many other places on the coast, and some aid has likewise been afforded to an industrious class of fishermen on Lough Neagh. The result hitherto, in most of these cases, is highly encouraging.

We have lately entered upon the cultivation of about 550 Irish, equal to 900 English, acres of land in the county of Mayo—an engagement requiring the outlay of a considerable sum of money; which being chiefly expended in spade-labour in one of the most impoverished counties in Ireland, cannot fail, whatever may be its ultimate issue, to afford a large amount of present relief. We entertain a hope, however, not only that the funds employed will be returned, but that the exhibition of an improved mode of culture, and the growth of useful crops, hitherto but little known in that part of the country, will have a tendency to withdraw the peasantry from their exclusive dependence on the potato, and in other respects be productive of permanent benefit. The lands are of good quality, and in fair condition; and are placed at our disposal for one season by the proprietors, free of rent and poor-rate: we provide the labour, manure and seed, and receive the produce, giving up the land when the crops shall be disposed of.

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The allotment of crops is agreed to be as follows:—

Turnips - -	272 acres.	Beans - -	22 acres.
Mangold Wurtzel -	46 „	Barley (dibbled)	9 „
Parsnips - -	46 „	Oats (ditto) -	9 „
Carrots - -	55 „	Cabbages - -	21 „
Peas - - -	22 „	Flax - -	50 „

A considerable portion of the land is now sown, and the prospects so far are favourable. This operation is superintended by an intelligent local committee, consisting of a few highly respectable persons residing at Ballina, and its vicinity, assisted by the County Surveyor, and one of the practical instructors at present so usefully employed by the Royal Agricultural Society in diffusing sound information respecting the management of land amongst the small farmers in various parts of Ireland. A similar operation, on a smaller scale, has been undertaken on our behalf in the county of Galway, by Lord Wallscourt; in this instance we have simply given the seed, and advanced the sum of 200 *l.*, to be repaid in 12 months, on condition of the money being expended in the culture, by spade-labour, of 50 acres, in crops approved by us. The whole of this land is now under crop, and the reports made to us of the execution and prospects of the work are exceedingly satisfactory.

The situation of small landholders, who have struggled under the great difficulties of the last two years to maintain their independent position, has repeatedly claimed our sympathy and assistance. We were enabled last year, by a liberal donation from the Government, by the hands of Commissary-General Sir Randolph Routh, of about 40,000 pounds weight of turnip-seeds, to make a very seasonable distribution in small portions in various parts of Ireland. The results were truly valuable and encouraging. By the returns made from our correspondents, entrusted with the local distribution, it appeared that 9,652 acres were sown, a large proportion of which, through the extreme poverty of the occupiers, would probably have otherwise lain waste; and the produce having been generally abundant, it is estimated that upwards of 190,000 tons of turnips were thus raised by a class, consisting generally of small farmers and cottiers, whose resources were almost exhausted. There is probably at the present time no portion of the community labouring under greater difficulties and privations than those whose occupation of land, exceeding one quarter of an acre, has excluded them from Poor Law relief, and who cling to their little holdings as the only means of future subsistence. We have had undoubted evidence that several instances have occurred, in which persons thus circumstanced have suffered individuals of their family to die of want rather than surrender their land. Encouraged by the experience of last season, and as a means of the most useful assistance to this suffering class, we have this year allotted the sum of 5,000 *l.* for the purchase of turnip and other green-crop seeds, of which the early kinds have been extensively distributed, and the allotment of others is still in progress. The seeds are given gratuitously, our correspondents in the several districts being merely expected to satisfy themselves of the real need of the parties, and that in every case the requisite quantity of ground has been properly prepared.

Having reason to believe that the want of clothing to a great extent contributed to perpetuate a state of abject poverty, by unfitting the able-bodied for out-door labour, and by predisposing all classes to the attacks of disease, we believed it right to appropriate a considerable sum within the last few months to the purchase of materials for garments, to be made up and distributed under the superintendence of benevolent persons in the country; a portion of the value of the clothing to be, if possible, repaid out of the earnings of the recipients. The sum of 7,391 *l.* appears in the annexed statement as expended under this head, of which a small part has been already refunded; but the distribution being still in progress, some time must elapse before the results are known. It is here proper to mention, that very considerable donations of ready-made garments have from time to time reached us from our generous helpers in America, the value of which is not included in the amount of donations acknowledged in the annexed account; nor do we possess the means of accurately ascertaining the value of the clothing thus consigned to us. We have also received large donations from England in money and materials for this special object, which do not appear in the present statement of accounts. Our clothing transactions form a distinct branch, managed by a sub-committee of our members. The grants of clothing hitherto made have been about 1,200 in number, and in value about 11,000 *l.*, distributed, as our other grants have been, throughout every county in Ireland.

The foregoing statement of operations now in progress may be summed up as embracing the following objects:—

1. A very limited issue of food, chiefly for the purpose of relief to sick and convalescent persons and their helpless children.
2. Encouragement of fisheries.
3. Advances of money towards an improved system of land cultivation.
4. Grants of turnip and other green-crop seeds to small farmers.
5. Ditto of clothing to the industrious poor.

And

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And towards the carrying forward of these and such other useful objects consistent with the nature of our trust, as may hereafter present themselves, there was on the first ultimo (as appears by the annexed account) a balance of the fund at our disposal amounting to 31,276*l.* 1*s.* 2*d.*

In conclusion, we may acknowledge the deep anxiety with which we continue to regard the state of things around us. The dearth of food in the country has, through the bounty of Divine Providence in the last abundant harvest, been removed for the present—a mercy to be commemorated with reverent gratitude. But one of the results of the late visitation of famine has been to disclose a train of social maladies of no temporary character, and to fix on them the attention of many enlightened persons, both in Great Britain and Ireland. Are these to be permitted to continue? Some of them are too closely interwoven with the habits of the people to admit of sudden amelioration, but others are more within our reach, and claim a vigorous effort for their removal. Amongst this class there are probably none which contribute more to cramp the industrial energies of the country than the complicated difficulties of the land question. Employment for the multitudes whose sole means of subsistence is in the culture of the soil, can only be found in an enlarged application of capital to this branch of national industry; in order to which there are impediments to be removed, which we apprehend will be found to require legislative measures of a bold and comprehensive character. It is true that such measures, to be efficacious, must have the cordial co-operation of the people, and that unless the security of property be guaranteed by the maintenance of public order, all legislation for this object will be in vain. We venture to hope, however, that under wise and equitable laws, and an improved system of land management, many of the existing discontents would disappear, that the pursuits of peaceful industry would gradually take the place of political strife, and that unequivocal symptoms of social improvement would ere long gladden the hearts of all true lovers of their country.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

Joseph Bewley,
Jonathan Pim, } Secretaries.

STATEMENT

STATEMENT of Receipt and Distribution of Donations in Money, Provisions, and Boilers, by the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends in *Ireland*, from the 29th of 11th Month (November) 1846 to the 1st of 5th Month (May) 1848.

RECEIPTS.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Amount of Donations in Money received to this date: viz.:						
From members of the Society of Friends in Ireland	4,825	16	6			
" Committee of Society of Friends in London	35,393	17	4			
" Other Donors in England and Ireland	4,004	18	2			
" Citizens of the United States of America	15,730	5	10			
				59,954	17	10
Amount of Donations in Food received to this date, from America; viz.:						
Shipped at New York — 4,652 Tons, value	62,317	15	2			
" Philadelphia — 2,052 " "	27,446	15	8			
" New Orleans — 453 " "	6,786	12	8			
" Newark, N. J. — 410 " "	6,739	13	4			
" Baltimore — 361 " "	4,028	17	4			
" Richmond, Virginia — 252 " "	3,727	14	10			
" Charleston — 171 " "	1,650	15	2			
" Alexandria, Virginia — 126 " "	2,010	15	5			
" Sundry other Ports, U. S. A. 103 " "	1,288	15	3			
" Boston and New Orleans, 1,066 by the hands of William Rathbone, Liverpool	15,538	14	–			
" New Orleans — 220 by the hands of the United States Consul, Cork	1,978	4	–			
" Apalachicola, &c. — 37 by the hands of the United States Consul, Liverpool	238	11	3			
" (Port unknown) — 1 by the hands of Rawlins and Sons, Liverpool	26	16	6			
9,904 Tons, value				133,780	–	7
Donation of 56 Boilers from the Coalbrookdale Iron Company, Shropshire, value				147	6	5
Total Amount of Donations				193,882	4	10
Interest on Money lent and on Balance at Banker's				637	14	4
Repayments on account of Grants of Clothing				359	18	5

Note.—In reference to the valuation of food received from America, it is to be observed, that the freight being in all cases paid by the British Government, the above amounts considerably exceed the value at the ports of shipment. The Transatlantic freight paid on the foregoing supplies appears to have amounted to 35,285 *l.* 8 *s.*

ISSUES.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Grants for gratuitous distribution, viz:—						
Antrim	985	9	10			
Armagh	1,154	13	6			
Cavan	2,222	11	3			
Donegal	7,723	7	2			
Down	742	15	8			
Fermanagh	2,204	15	10			
Londonderry	2,507	18	10			
Monaghan	1,442	8	10			
Tyrone	2,162	18	6			
Total in Ulster				21,146	19	5
Carlow	666	18	7			
Dublin	1,629	16	5			
Kildare	306	14	8			
Kilkenny	779	8	7			
King's County	1,626	19	–			
Longford	548	15	8			
Louth	381	11	5			
Meath	242	10	–			
Queen's County	935	4	2			
Westmeath	883	5	6			
Wexford	984	19	6			
Wicklow	571	4	6			
Total in Leinster				9,557	8	–
Galway	13,420	11	3			
Leitrim	2,270	6	1			
Mayo	10,509	3	1			
Roscommon	6,701	10	–			
Sligo	3,066	1	4			
Total in Connaught				35,967	11	9
Clare	9,490	1				
Cork	36,059	3	–			
Kerry	14,678	–	11			
Limerick	6,139	7	5			
Tipperary	6,545	–	9			
Waterford	3,081	15	5			
Total in Munster				75,993	8	6
				142,665	7	8
Paid Insurance, Brokerage and Storage, &c., on sundry cargoes of American Provisions				2,038	2	3
" Manufacturing Biscuit of American donations of flour				371	17	9
" Goods purchased for distribution by Clothing Sub-Committee				7,391	–	–
" Turnip, Carrot, Flax and other Seeds for gratuitous distribution				4,925	15	5
" Fishing Tackle and Loans to Fisheries, &c.				2,082	1	4
" On account of Land Cultivation by spade-labour in County of Mayo				1,850	–	–
" Sundry Expenses of Central Committee and its Auxiliaries at Cork, Limerick, Waterford and Clonmel; viz.:—						
Office Furniture, Rent, &c.	179	11	–			
Postage and Carriage of Parcels	189	1	8			
Printing and Stationery	504	5	4			
Travelling Expenses of sundry Deputations to various parts of Ireland	333	18	8			
Salaries of Assistant Secretaries, Book-keepers, Clerks, &c.	1,008	8	11			
Newspapers and Advertisements	42	19	4			
Petty Charges	21	7	1			
				2,279	12	–
Balance on hands; viz.:—				163,603	16	5
Provisions, 342 Tons	3,632	–	–			
Cash at Bankers, in hands of Auxiliary Committees, lent at Interest, &c.	27,644	1	2			
				31,276	1	2
£.				194,879	17	7

The following is a Summary in round numbers, of the Receipts and Payments, from the Commencement to the 31st of 3d Month 1849.

RECEIPTS.	£.
Donations, viz.:—	
Money	60,040
Food	133,863
Boilers	147
	194,050
Interest	1,345
£.	195,395

PAYMENTS.	£.	£.
Grants, viz.:—		
Ulster	21,660	
Leinster	9,610	
Connaught	41,170	
Munster	79,100	
		151,540
Insurance, Brokerage, &c. &c.		2,550
Manufacturing Biscuit		385
Clothing for Distribution	7,830	
Less Repayments	1,650	
		6,180
Seed for Distribution		5,000
Land Cultivation in County Mayo		7,000
Loans to Fisheries and for Land Cultivation, &c.		4,500
Central and Auxiliary Committees' Expenses		3,300
Balance		14,940
£.		195,395

I would also, with the permission of this Committee, deliver in an address to the public at large in Great Britain and Ireland, issued by our Committee on the 8th of the present month, containing a brief summary of our operations, and a statement of the views which, after much deliberation, we have arrived at in reference to the present state of our country, and those means which appear to us indispensable towards her restoration to a more healthy condition.

J. Bewley, Esq.

25th May 1849.

ADDRESS to the PUBLIC from the RELIEF ASSOCIATION of the SOCIETY OF FRIENDS in *Ireland*.

IN reviewing our proceedings for the two years and half which have elapsed since the formation of this association, and in contemplating the present unhappy condition of our country, the conviction is painfully forced on us, that the public bounty distributed through us, as well as the relief afforded from other sources, whatever may have been their value in affording a temporary alleviation of wide-spread misery, have produced scarcely any permanently useful result.

Our original circular appealed to our brethren in religious profession in this country and in Great Britain. It was responded to, not merely by those to whom it was addressed, but by many unconnected with our religious society in these countries, and also by the citizens of the United States, to an extent and with a munificence unparalleled in the history of benevolent exertions. The contributions confided to us in money, food and clothing, amounted to about 200,000 *l.*, of which more than one-half was sent from America.

The means placed at our disposal have indeed been large. We have felt the responsibility thus imposed on us, and our best exertions have been given for their judicious application. Several of our members have from time to time visited the more distressed parts of the South and West, in order, by obtaining a fuller knowledge of their condition, to be enabled the better to administer to their relief. We sought for and obtained the co-operation of benevolent persons in all parts of the country. Wherever it appeared judicious to form local committees, we endeavoured to work through such means; but in the great number of cases in which the isolation of the parties rendered united action impracticable, we trusted to individual exertion. In carrying out our objects, an extensive correspondence has been kept up. More than 40,000 letters have been received or written by the committee in Dublin, and a proportionate number by auxiliary committees in the country. We have also been brought into personal communication with men of all ranks and all classes, whether soliciting our assistance on behalf of the poor around them, or engaged in similar endeavours to alleviate the prevalent distress.

Gratuitous issues of food have been made to the value of 130,000 *l.*; clothing has been distributed exceeding 10,000 *l.* in value; and grants of money have been made to the amount of 20,000 *l.* The total number of grants has exceeded 11,000. Feeling the demoralizing tendency of such extensive almsgiving, we have endeavoured to encourage industry. We have made grants in aid of local manufactures, have supported industrial schools, have advanced money in loans for the assistance of fisheries, and in a few cases with highly gratifying results. In order to encourage the culture of green crops, which might prove some substitute for the potato, we have distributed nearly 200,000 lbs. weight of turnip, carrot, parsnip, cabbage, and other such seeds; and we also undertook the temporary cultivation of about 800 statute acres of land in green crops by spade labour.

But the contributions entrusted to us have borne but a small proportion to the whole expenditure for the relief of the country. Money has been expended to an unprecedented amount. The British Relief Association dispensed about 400,000 *l.* The distribution by other relief associations may be estimated at fully 200,000 *l.* The collections by local committees in Ireland exceeded 300,000 *l.* If we add to these the numberless contributions of private benevolence, and the remittances from emigrants for the relief of their friends at home, the aggregate may be safely estimated at one million and a half sterling. The advances by Government were on a gigantic scale, amounting to nearly 10,000,000 *l.* sterling.

From these various sources a large amount of relief was afforded at a period of great distress, and many were preserved, for a time at least, from that starvation which, without such assistance, appeared inevitable. But we are saddened by the conviction, that, with a very few exceptions, no permanent good has been done. We feel that the condition of our country is not improved, that her prospects are even worse, because her people have less hope. Many of those who were most active in administering to the relief of their neighbours have fallen victims to exertions of mind and body beyond their capability to sustain. Others have withdrawn from the work, in despair of effecting any good. The pressure of private affairs, and, in many cases, of pecuniary difficulty, has forced others to discontinue their efforts. Thus, voluntary exertions have almost ceased, and even for the administration of the legal relief, paid agents are necessary throughout a large part of the country.

The calamity fell first on the lowest class, especially the labouring population of the South and West. In losing their crop of potatoes, they lost all, and sunk at once into helpless and hopeless pauperism. The small farmers still preserved hope. With great exertions, and submitting in many cases to extreme privations, they again cropped their ground; a second

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failure of the potatoes pauperized these also. Then came the increased poor-rates, heaviest in those districts which were least able to bear them, weighing down many who without this last burden might have stood their ground, alarming all by the unaccustomed pressure of an undefined taxation, and greatly reducing the small amount of capital applicable to the employment of labour. The landed proprietor, in order to provide for the payment of rates, has been obliged to leave much useful work undone, thus lessening the number of labourers employed. In many cases, his chief effort has been to diminish the population by a frightful system of wholesale evictions, and thus get rid of a tenantry, who under happier circumstances would have been a source of wealth, but whom his inability to employ, after the failure of the potato, had converted into a heavy burden. Despair of succeeding at home has driven, and is still driving, vast numbers of the most industrious of the middle classes to transfer their energy, and a considerable amount of capital, to other countries, which offer a freer scope for exertion. The paupers are merely kept alive, either in the crowded workhouses, or, in alarming numbers, depending on out-door relief; but their health is not maintained; their physical strength is weakened, their mental capacity is lowered, their moral character is degraded; they are hopeless themselves, and they offer no hope to their country, except in the prospect, so abhorrent to humanity and christian feeling, of their gradual extinction by death. Many families are now suffering extreme distress, who, three years since, enjoyed the comforts and refinements of life, and administered to the necessities of those around them. Thus we have seen the flood of pauperism widening more and more, engulphing one class after another, rising higher and higher in its effects on society, until it threatens, in some of the worst districts, to swallow up all ranks and all classes within its fatal vortex.

Meanwhile, there is much land lying waste which was formerly cultivated, while the strength of the country is standing by idle, anxiously asking for work, and willing to accept the lowest wages; but finding no one to employ them, because the owners of the ground have not the money to pay them, and the dread of undefined taxation, and uncertainty as to the future, prevent others from taking the land on lease.

Residing as we do, for the most part, in the large cities, or in the comparatively prosperous districts of the East and North, we see little more of the extreme distress of our countrymen than the people of England. But we find our poor-rates increased by the influx of country paupers; we see them begging in our streets; we witness the effects of the gradual reduction of the means of the country in the diminution of its trade; our constant intercourse with various parts of Ireland makes us acquainted with the progress of destitution, and the question involuntarily arises, "When and how is the end to come?" To trust to the Poor Law and do nothing—to wait until pauperism is extinguished by the death of the paupers—is to wait until the country is stripped of her strength by the loss of her people. To convert Ireland into one large Union, is to bind the living to the dead.

In alluding to the course pursued by us in the administration of our trust, our object is to show the extensive intercourse we have had with all parts of the country, and the opportunity thus afforded us of forming a correct opinion of its present state, and of the means most likely to contribute to its improvement. The propriety of making such a statement of our views has on several occasions been urged upon us, but we have hitherto been unwilling to obtrude ourselves on the public attention. Our conviction of the urgency of the present crisis must plead our apology—a crisis which affects not Ireland alone, but the whole empire. Paupers from our Western districts crowd the cities of Great Britain as they do those of Ireland, and are even now depressing their labouring population by an undue competition. The distress moves onward day by day, and unless checked in time, threatens ultimately to involve both countries in one common calamity.

We have long felt that the chief ground of hope, the main source of improvement, is the improved cultivation of the soil; and that the surest means of effecting this object is by affording security to the cultivator. That this security does not generally exist in Ireland is admitted. On this point there is scarcely a second opinion among thinking men in this country. The laws which regulate the title to, and the conveyance of land, require to be changed, so as to give the utmost freedom to its sale and transfer—so as to pass those estates whose proprietors are irretrievably ruined, into other hands—and to enable those who are partially encumbered to free themselves from their difficulties, by disposing of part of their landed property. Until this be effected; until the soil of Ireland be held by a clear and marketable title; until the owners be enabled to sell the whole or any part of their property without the ruinous delays and the heavy costs which now prevent them; until the creditors of a landowner have those facilities for enforcing payment of their debts by the sale of his property, to which justice entitles them; we are convinced, and we feel ourselves bound thus publicly to state our decided conviction, that it is vain to hope that Ireland can raise itself from a state of poverty and degradation. The potato may grow again, and by its assistance our country may be enabled to escape from the immediate pressure of its difficulties; but without those changes in the laws relating to the tenure and conveyance of land, which shall open a free scope for the employment of its capital and its industry, and give ample security to the cultivators of the soil, we cannot hope for general and permanent improvement.

An enormous expenditure of money has failed to relieve us. It could not do so unless free scope were opened to the energies of the country. The partial remedies which have been

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been applied have served but to tighten the net which trammels the exertions of the great mass of our population. Measures of a much more decided character are necessary to produce any permanently useful effect. The situation of the country is daily becoming worse. There is no time to lose, if those now suffering are to be saved. Money must still be advanced for temporary purposes, during the interval which will elapse before efficient measures can be brought into general and active operation. But our paramount want is not money; it is the removal of those legal difficulties which prevent the capital of Ireland from being applied to the improved cultivation of its soil, and thus supporting its poor by the wages of honest and useful labour.

We believe these views to be founded in justice and sound policy, and therefore essential to the social regeneration of our country; but we do not propose them as a panacea for all her evils. It is not for us to attempt to penetrate the secret designs of the Most High; but we may without presumption regard the mysterious dispensation with which we have been visited, in the blight of the potato, as a means permitted by an All-wise Providence to exhibit more strikingly the unsound state of our social condition. The momentous events which have been passing around us, have drawn public attention to some of those evils which have long weighed down the energies of our population; and hence we are encouraged to hope that this awful visitation may, in the Divine Mercy, be over-ruled for good; and that the darkness which now surrounds us may be but the prelude to the dawning of a brighter day on our suffering country. But whilst adverting to the necessity of legislative and social changes, may it ever be reverently borne in mind that all human means will be unavailing without the blessing of Him who ruleth in the kingdoms of men.

Signed by direction of the Relief Association of the Society of Friends in Ireland,

Joseph Bewley,
Jonathan Pim, } Secretaries.

Dublin, 8th of Fifth month, 1849.

Note.—The foregoing Address was drawn up before we were aware of the proposed measures of the Government for facilitating the sale of encumbered estates; but was held over in order that it should obtain the consideration of the country members of this Association.

9531. Supposing the failure of the potato crop to continue, and the present state of things, as you are acquainted with it in Ireland, to continue, with no greater or more effectual appliances than those which are already in action to be made use of, do you feel any confidence in the improvement of the condition of that country?

Assuming matters to go on as they are, I cannot see any other result but that the condition of the country will continue rapidly to grow worse.

9532. Does that apply to various classes, or is it confined to the poorer?

By no means to the poorer classes; the class of poor is, in my apprehension, enlarging every day.

9533. Therefore the demands for relief, under those circumstances, enlarge in a similar proportion?

The demands for relief will unquestionably increase, and the means of giving relief will diminish.

9534. On the other hand, would not a renewal of the productiveness of the potato crop tend to perpetuate many of the evils under which Ireland is now suffering?

If there was a return to the old system of potato cultivation by the conacre, I think it could not fail to do so. The potato, however, is a valuable esculent, and if cultivated upon proper principles, as it is in England, I can see no objection to its continued culture.

9535. But not as the sole subsistence of the population?

Certainly not.

9536. Supposing matters to revert to the condition in which they were before the potato failure, do you contemplate any real and permanent security against the recurrence of a similar state of things, or should you apprehend renewed visitations of distress in the revolution of the cycle at periods more or less frequent?

I think we have no ground upon which to build the expectation of any improved state of things hereafter, all things remaining the same as they have been.

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9537. You have stated that the condition of those who have contributed to the relief of distress is sinking, as well as the condition of the parties requiring that assistance?
There can be no doubt of it.

9538. Does that statement apply to the condition of the landed proprietors as well as the farmers?
I would say to every class.

9539. Does it show itself also, in a great diminution in commercial transactions, in the trade of Ireland?
I should think it does; it cannot fail to affect consumption, and of course that affects trade, which depends upon consumption for its support.

9540. There is a very considerable intercourse between Dublin and Liverpool?
Very.

9541. Are you of opinion that this distress in Ireland has more or less a tendency, if unrelieved, to show itself by the overflow of Irish pauperism upon what is comparatively English prosperity?
It has, unquestionably.

9542. Then, does it not follow, as a just inference, that every measure which tends to improve the positive condition of the Irish people, to raise the station of the labourer, and to give him a better remuneration for his labour in Ireland, has an immediate tendency towards either checking or averting an evil from which England is likely to suffer largely?
That is decidedly my opinion.

9543. Notwithstanding the great exertions which have been made by the Government, and by well-disposed and kind-hearted English individuals, and notwithstanding all the exertions of the landlords and of the various societies, are you not aware that a great number of persons have perished from the effects of starvation, and are at present perishing?
I am sorry to say that this is a well-authenticated fact.

9544. Under those circumstances, do you think there is any chance of Ireland being extricated for some years to come from the great difficulty under which she now labours?
It is my belief, that under the most favourable circumstances likely to arise, she will emerge only very gradually from her present condition of distress.

9545. Do you think it is possible that she can emerge without there being first a very great additional loss of life?
I really do entertain the hope that efforts might be made that would avert that sad consequence.

9546. Then it is your deliberate opinion, that unless greater efforts should be made than have already been made, a great loss of life must ensue?
I am afraid so.

9547. Is it your opinion, that the gentry and the resident landed proprietors in Ireland are now in a situation to be able to give any important assistance to the poorer classes?
I believe many of them are at present in very reduced circumstances, and consequently less able to give important assistance to the poorer classes than they were two or three years since.

9548. Are you of opinion that they have the power, although they may have the will, to save life upon a great scale?
I should think it very unreasonable to expect the resident landed proprietors in Ireland, exclusively, to make the exertions and to supply the means necessary for this object.

9549. Do you think there is any other means of saving a great number of unfortunate people in Ireland from death, unless the Government adopt some great and speedy measure for the purpose?
I cannot see how any large and comprehensive measure can be carried out without some action on the part of the Government.

9550. You

9550. You stated, that the present emigration which is going forward has removed a larger proportion of capital than of population; has not the great supply of foreign food purchased and consumed in Ireland during the last three years also deprived Ireland of a vast amount of capital?

There has been a great deal of money spent in foreign food within the last three years.

9551. Are you aware how that foreign food which has been introduced into Ireland has been paid for?

It has been, I apprehend, chiefly paid for by remittances of bills of exchange.

9552. Are you aware that the gold in circulation in Ireland has been taken away by the vessels which have brought food into Ireland?

I am not aware of such being the case. Under our commercial and banking system, these transactions adjust themselves without any considerable export of specie.

9553. You have not heard that a large quantity of gold has been taken away by certain vessels which have brought food?

I have not.

9554. In addition to the sources of relief which were provided last year, partly by grants from Parliament, partly by the Poor Law, partly by the funds administered by the British Association, and partly by the funds administered by your Society, and through the agents of your Society, were there not, to your knowledge, very considerable sums remitted by charitable people from England and elsewhere to private individuals in Ireland?

To a very large amount indeed; to an amount that I have no means of ascertaining precisely.

9555. Was not a considerable portion of that collected by persons acting from religious motives here, and distributed by many of the clergy of Ireland?

I believe it went very much through their hands.

9556. Therefore it would be an error to form an estimate of the amount which has been applied for the relief of the destitution of Ireland, upon the sole and exclusive grounds of the Parliamentary Grants, the British Association Funds, and the Poor Law Funds?

It would; in addition to the sources of assistance from Parliamentary Grants, Poor Law Funds, and public Relief Associations, we must include the money sent through private channels to Ireland, and the remittances from emigrants in America, both to a very large amount indeed.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

THOMAS WILLIAM CLINTON MURDOCH, Esquire, is called in, and examined as follows:

9557. YOU are Chairman of the Land and Emigration Commission?

Yes.

9558. In the course of the last year, I believe, some arrangements were made, bearing upon the question of emigration, and applying the system to the children or the orphans in the Workhouses of Ireland?

An arrangement of that sort was made.

9559. What was the number fixed to be taken of Workhouse emigrants?

The number was fixed at 2,500 to be taken in the 12 months.

9560. How was that number apportioned and distributed in the various parts of Ireland?

The distribution and apportionment of it was left to the Irish Government; it was for them to select the Workhouses from which we were to take the emigrants, and upon their notifying to us the Workhouses which they had selected, an officer appointed by us, and acting under our Board, was sent to inspect the orphan girls, and to see whether they were fit for emigration; upon his report they were taken.

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9561. A medical officer?
No; a naval officer, who had been long in the service of the Board as an Emigration Officer.

9562. Could you give the Committee an account of the mode in which the apportionment was made, according to the several Unions in Ireland?
I have no power of giving any account of that; it was done by the Irish Government.

9563. What number of those 2,500 have emigrated?
Two thousand one hundred and six.

9564. Were those free emigrants, or was any local contribution required?
The only local contribution was the expense of their outfit, and also their conveyance to Plymouth.

9565. By whom was the expense of their conveyance from Dublin or Cork to Plymouth defrayed; by a local expense, or did it fall upon the emigration funds?
It was defrayed out of local funds.

9566. Are you able to state to the Committee the expense of the outfit and the transmission to Plymouth, which was defrayed locally?
We generally calculate that the expense of the outfit of an emigrant is about 5*l.* It probably would be less in the case of those Workhouse girls, as very many of their clothes would be made in the Workhouse, and the expense of making up would be therefore saved.

9567. What was the colonial destination of those girls?
Some were sent to New South Wales, and some were sent to South Australia.

9568. As to the mere question of paying the expense of the transmission of those female orphans, would it not have been cheaper to have paid their passages to British North America, or to the United States?
It would have been quite as cheap.

9569. Were those female emigrants conveyed in ships peculiarly appropriated to themselves?
They were.

9570. What arrangements were made by you, with respect to the order and discipline and care of those girls upon the passage?
The general discipline of our emigrant vessels is maintained by the Surgeon-superintendent; but in all the vessels conveying female orphans a matron was appointed, with a certain number of sub-matrons, to maintain order among them; and where we could, we put a religious instructor also on board.

9571. Have you found that, on the whole, to afford you adequate security for the moral discipline of the emigrant ships?
On the whole we have, but it is impossible not to admit that there have been cases in which there has been very great misconduct on the part of the officers of the ships. It has been found impossible, even with every precaution, to prevent it; it does not happen often, but it does happen.

9572. Has there not been formed a Ladies' Association at Plymouth, assisted by the clergymen there?
There has been.

9573. Have they not made representations on the subject?
They have made some representations on the subject of the manner of fitting the ships, but none against the system of sending out young females.

9574. Have they not made representations with respect to cases of immorality prevailing on board?
No, I do not recollect any representation of that kind.

9575. Is this a Return that was prepared in your office on the subject of emigration?—(*The same being handed to the Witness.*)
Yes, it is.

9576. Are

9576. Are you able to add to the information which that Return, bearing date March of the present year, communicated to the Board?

I can put in a Return of the emigration for the first four months of this year from those ports at which we have emigration agents, which includes, in fact, almost the whole emigration of the United Kingdom, though not absolutely so.

9577. Is it progressive this year?

It has increased very largely indeed.

9578. Can you discriminate how much of this is Irish emigration?

The emigration from Liverpool is considered to be almost exclusively Irish, and I find that out of 104,701 emigrants, who left the kingdom in the first four months of the year, 81,651 went from Ireland and Liverpool, and 23,050 from England and Scotland.

9579. Are those the four months in which the greatest amount of emigration takes place?

Not by any means; during the first three months there is no emigration to British America.

9580. Can you state the progressive increase in these four months from Liverpool?

From Liverpool, in January there were 6,730 emigrants; in February, 12,681; in March, 16,057, and in April, 19,466.

9581. Will you have the goodness to lay before the Committee a statement of the Liverpool emigration in the four corresponding months of the last year?

I can state it at once; in 1848, the January emigration was 3,395; in February, 7,136; in March, 14,226; in April, 15,537; making a total of 40,294, as compared with 54,934, the total of the present year.

9582. Have you any reason to believe that in the next four months the number will be very much larger?

I have every reason to believe that emigration will increase largely, and that this year's will be the largest emigration that has ever left the country.

9583. Has any alteration taken place in the emigration of this year, as compared with the emigration of each of the two years preceding, showing that a greater or a smaller number of the Liverpool emigrants are now directed towards the United States, rather than to the British American Colonies?

During the last year, the emigration was almost exclusively to the United States; the whole of the emigration to British North America scarcely exceeded 31,000.

9584. To what circumstances do you attribute that?

It was undoubtedly attributable to the tax which then existed in Canada, but rather to the uncertainty of the tax than to its amount.

9585. You mean the increased Passengers Tax that was imposed by a temporary Act in the North American Provinces?

Yes.

9586. Has not that been modified?

Very much; it has been reduced now to 7 *s.* 6 *d.* upon adults, and 5 *s.* upon children.

9587. What has been the effect of that modification?

As yet we have no means of knowing. Emigration to Canada would only begin in the month of April, and there has not, therefore, been time to ascertain.

9588. Will you put in a Return showing the exact charge which existed upon emigrants anterior to the former alteration of the law; the recommendations which were made by the Secretary of State; the law as it actually passed, and the present state of the law?

I will.

9589. Have you any reason to know, from the reports of your agents, more especially at Liverpool, whether the classes of persons now emigrating from Ireland are the same classes that were emigrants two years ago?

It has been generally stated by our agents, that the emigration of 1848 was

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of a better class than the emigration of 1847. There is great difficulty, however, in ascertaining the fact, certainly; because the Irish emigrants are particularly jealous of allowing any one to know what money they have with them.

9590. Are there any means within your reach, or the reach of your agents at Liverpool, of knowing what may have been the amount of bills of exchange upon Boston and upon New York, which have been purchased by the Irish emigrants of late years?

We have endeavoured to ascertain it, but could not.

9591. If it has been stated to a member of the Committee by one of the great emigration agents, that in his single office, in the present year, over and above paying the expense of the passages, there has been a demand made at his office for bills, upon New York and North America, at the rate of 25,000 *l.* per year, would that cause any surprise to you?

Not at all.

9592. Considering the accounts which you, in common with the rest of the public, have received of the increasing pressure of distress in Ireland, is there any other mode of accounting for the increased emigration which appears upon the face of your Return, except that of assuming a higher description of emigrants, possessed of more means of their own, as forming the class who quit the country?

Emigration begets emigration; almost the whole of the Irish emigration last year, certainly more than three-fourths of it, was paid for by the money sent home from America; and I understand that it is very much the practice in Ireland for people who are anxious to emigrate to contribute to send out one member of a family, who afterwards sends home the means of taking out the other members of the family.

9593. Is it not also found, usually, that if an amount is contributed from an emigrant who has been successful, that the emigrants at home, or those desirous of emigrating from home, collect and contribute what they can towards such a purpose?

I believe it to be so.

9594. Does your information lead you to believe that North America and the Australian Colonies are capable of absorbing, in the present year, a larger amount of emigration than will proceed from this country?

They are quite incapable of absorbing anything like the emigration that will proceed from this country during the present year. Our returns from Australia show that those colonies cannot absorb more than we are now sending them, which is at the rate of five ships a month to New South Wales; that is, three to Sydney district, and two to Port Phillip district; and two ships a month to South Australia; in all, seven ships, carrying from 1,500 to 1,800 souls a month. We are told by the Governor's Report that this number is as many as they can absorb or employ. The North American Colonies could probably not absorb very much more than they now receive, that is, some 30,000 emigrants a year.

9595. How much did they absorb before a check was put to British North American emigration by the alteration of the tax?

I believe there were never more than 30,000 or 40,000 emigrants who remained in British America, in any one year, though more passed through it; it was a cheaper route to the Western States of the Union than through New York or Boston.

9596. Have you ever heard that, although a certain proportion of those who emigrate into Canada, for instance, cross the frontier into the United States, that, nevertheless, that number has been more than counterbalanced by those who have emigrated from the United States into Canada?

I believe that circumstance only occurred in one year, and that was the year 1842; it was a year of very considerable distress in the United States, and the public works were stopped. At the same time, by the liberality of Parliament, Canada had a very large sum put at its disposal for public works; those works were carried on very largely, and there was a considerable emigration from the United States into Canada. I believe it never happened in any other year.

9597. At the time of the renewal of the emigration to Australia, was there not an

an official arrangement made by which the amount of that emigration was to be distributed in proportion to the population of the two British islands?
There was.

9598. Therefore, assuming the population to be as 16 to 8, the proportion would have been two British emigrants to one Irish emigrant?
It would.

9599. There is a Parliamentary Return which you have made, showing the very large amount of agency which you have found it necessary to establish in England for the purpose of making arrangements for emigration, and diffusing a knowledge of the advantages and success of emigration?
There is.

9600. Will you have the goodness to put in an account of the number of such local agencies as have been established, the cost at which they have been established, and the funds out of which that cost has been defrayed?
I will.

9601. Have you judged it expedient to establish such general agencies for the same purposes in Ireland?
In Ireland we have only one principal agent, who has sub-agents in other parts of the country.

9602. In fact (without going into its causes), have you not had to contend with, or to deal with, a much greater anxiety for emigration from Ireland than you have had to deal with in other parts of the empire?
We have had, and have now, a very large emigration from England to the Australian Colonies, and very great pressure to contend against both in England and Scotland; the pressure from Ireland for the Australian Colonies has not been so great.

9603. Then how do you account for the necessity of establishing a great and numerous corps of agents for the purpose of explaining, and for the purpose of diffusing, a knowledge of the benefits of emigration in a country where there would seem, by your answer, to be the greatest desire for it, while in a country where there is less desire for it no such agency has been required?
The circumstances of the countries were very different when the agency was established. At the time when this large agency was first established, there was very little desire for emigration from England; indeed, at that time, while the railroad works were in progress, and the country was in a state of prosperity, two years ago, it was almost impossible to get English emigrants; from Ireland, at that time, emigrants were got with great ease; and, accordingly, when we increased our establishment of agents in England, we did not think it necessary to do so in Ireland, and it was not done. Latterly, in the last year, a very great desire for emigration to Australia has arisen in England, very much from the effect of our agents, and very much also from the effect of the Colonization Societies Branches, and the lectures which have been delivered by members of that Society in different parts of England; and the number of applications from England and Scotland has been very great indeed.

9604. What proportion of your English emigrants to Australia (subtracting for a moment the mining emigration, which the state of South Australia has rendered peculiarly necessary) is of the agricultural class, as compared with the emigrants from the towns and manufacturing districts?
I will endeavour to have a return of that kind made up, but the agricultural emigration is very large; that is the agricultural emigration, including also farm servants and female domestic servants.

9605. With a view to the interests of the colonies themselves, and the especial wants of Australia, do you consider that it is the agricultural class or the town class which is the most useful for the purposes of colonial improvement?
Clearly the agricultural class; I do not think that any large number of the town class could be properly sent to the colonies.

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9606. Was not there some emigration to Australia connected with the movement of the French Government in the expulsion of British manufacturers?
There were some 500 or 600 people who had been employed at Calais in the lace works who were expelled, and a charitable society in this country raised a subscription towards enabling them to emigrate; they were, accordingly, sent out to the colonies of South Australia and New South Wales.

9607. Were the expenses of that emigration, so far as they were not provided by such charitable funds, defrayed from the colonial funds?
Yes, the balance was defrayed from the colonial funds.

9608. Abstracting the question of relief to a peculiar class, specially entitled to national sympathy, do you think that class of emigrants was a class the most needed, and most likely to be successful in the colonies?
It was not the class most needed, perhaps, but they were all of them men of considerable energy, and of good character; they were ascertained to be men in the vigour of life, and could turn their hands to almost anything. At the same time, I do not think that a very large emigration of that kind would have been desirable.

9609. Supposing that no wrong had been committed, arising out of the political events of those times, which called for a peculiar duty on the part of the mother country, and a claim for commiseration on the part of those who were expelled, was that the sort of class which, under ordinary circumstances, you would have selected?
Certainly not.

9610. Has there not been also emigration from London connected with some of the establishments for education here; for instance, the ragged schools?
One hundred and fifty boys and girls were sent out from the ragged schools.

9611. Within what ages?
They were to be as near 14 as possible.

9612. Were the expenses of that emigration defrayed out of the colonial funds?
Ten pounds was given towards them from the colonial funds, the remainder was paid from other sources.

9613. What was the expense per head?
About 14 *l.*, exclusive of their outfit; the whole expense would be about 20 *l.*

9614. It would appear from the Returns, that the number of English free emigrants that were assisted in the last year amounted to 13,102; that the number of Scotch free emigrants amounted to 2,732, and that the Irish free emigrants amounted to 1,778. If the proportion had been observed of taking one-third of Irish emigrants as compared with two-thirds of British emigrants, how do you reconcile the fact which appears on the face of that paper with the intentions of the Government, as previously stated?
There is no doubt a very great arrear of Irish emigration, and it appears much larger in 1848 than it would be if we took the whole period from the re-commencement of emigration to the present date. At the same time, even then, taking the period from the year 1847 to the present time, there is a considerable arrear, and it arose very much in this manner: When the arrangement to which your Lordship alludes was first made, it was intended to take out principally, or at any rate in the first instance, the Irish orphan girls; and accordingly the emigration of the Irish agricultural labourers was, for the moment, arrested. It was afterwards found impossible to take out the Irish orphan girls with safety, so rapidly as we had expected, because, for their own sakes, we could not send them to the colonies more rapidly than they could be absorbed. There was also a difficulty in providing their outfits, after they had been approved and selected, sufficiently fast to enable us to take out more than one vessel in five or six weeks; while, from a delay which occurred at the beginning of the emigration, the commencement of it was thrown later into the year than we had expected. Under all these circumstances, the female orphan emigration fell into arrear, as compared with the emigration from England and Ireland; and before this result became sufficiently evident to enable us to remedy it by re-commencing the ordinary agricultural emigration, the Irish disturbances broke out, and during their existence we took scarcely any emigrants from Ireland;

Ireland; the principal part of our applications for passages to Australia being from the disturbed districts. Since that, we have been endeavouring to fetch up our arrears, but we certainly have not as yet done it. We expect to be able to do it in the course of this year.

9615. Are not there Ladies' Associations in Australia established for the very purpose of taking care of these girls as soon as they arrive?
Yes, there are.

9616. I wish to call your attention to the notes subjoined to this account: "In reference to the proportion between the two countries, the emigrants described as Scotch and Irish are those only taken direct from Scotland and Ireland; but of the emigrants described as English, a considerable number are Scotch and Irish." Are there any emigrants taken direct from Ireland to Australia?
They are brought direct from Ireland to Plymouth, and they are in our custody from the time they leave Ireland.

9617. In relation to the others, do you receive applications at your office in London from Irish emigrants?
There are a certain number who come in, particularly female emigrants, who have been in service, and these being a very desirable class, we do not reject. But, as a general rule, we do not take Irish emigrants in England.

9618. Is there not an official answer given, stating, that being Irish, they are not eligible here?
Generally, they are not taken from England.

9619. It would be the same with regard to the Scotch?
Yes.

9620. Suppose the case of female emigrants in London being natives of Ireland, and being in other respects properly qualified to apply to you for a passage, would it be necessary, according to the regulations of your office, that they should return to Ireland and make their application through Ireland, or would you feel yourself at liberty to receive them as part of your general system in London as Irish emigrants?
As a general rule, we do not take Irish emigrants from England, the reason being, that it would be very difficult to distinguish between Irish and English emigrants, and there would also be great difficulty, if we took Irish in England, in ascertaining their characters and qualifications.

9621. Then do you not think, in order to establish an equal principle between the inhabitants of Cork and the inhabitants of London, that there ought to be the same means and facilities of transmitting the emigrant, after his qualifications had been approved of by you, from the one town and from the other?
I think it necessary to observe, that the emigration to Australia is essentially not an emigration of relief, and we have no right to look at it as a question of relief; it is paid for out of colonial money, and conducted upon principles laid down by the colonial authorities, and we, acting as trustees, are bound to look not to the advantages to the emigrants, so much as the advantage to the colony. If, therefore, we can get cheaper and equally eligible emigrants from England, I think, as a general rule, that we should not be justified in paying more for an emigrant from Ireland.

9622. At the time of the bounty system, when the emigration was peculiarly colonial, did not those who administered those colonial funds for the purpose of emigration, feel it necessary, as a matter of economy, to resort to Irish emigration from the port of Cork, rather than to emigration from other ports of the United Kingdom?
Yes; the emigration under the bounty system was merely a commercial transaction, and of about 33,000 emigrants sent out, 22,000 were Irish; but it was the cause of great complaint in the colony, and in several instances the bounty was refused after the emigrants arrived; that was one reason for the adoption of the present Government system of emigration.

9623. That refers to the just preference given to the present system over the bounty system; the reference made in the question was only as to the economy

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of one system as compared with the other; your objection having been that your funds being colonial funds, you had no right, on the ground of relief, to spend more of the colonial funds in one part of the empire than the other; therefore the object of the question was, where it was a purely commercial principle, was not it found to be cheaper to take that emigration from Ireland than from England?

It might be so, but the colonies objected to receive a purely Irish emigration.

9624. Is there any official record to that effect, of what date, and on the part of what governor?

I have no doubt that there are.

9625. Will you have the goodness to lay them before the Committee?

I will.

9626. You state in the note that has been referred to, that a considerable number of those marked as of England are Scotch and Irish; can you inform the Committee how many Irish there are?

I have no power of informing your Lordships how many are Irish; we endeavoured to ascertain the fact, but could not; we could not trace them except by their names.

9627. Are there not the certificates of their baptisms?

Those certificates are returned to the emigrants as soon as the emigrants are accepted.

9628. On what grounds do you state that a considerable number of them were Scotch and Irish?

We inquired of the clerk who passes the emigrants who apply personally at the office to know, as far as he could judge, how many he passed, and it seemed to us that there were something under 1,000.

9629. Of Scotch and Irish?

Of Irish only.

9630. Were those females or males?

Principally females.

9631. Did you find any difficulty in the emigration of that number connected with their parentage or birthplace?

They were principally individuals who had been in service in England.

9632. And married to Englishmen?

No; they were generally single women.

9633. You have stated that you consider the British North American Colonies cannot absorb more than the probable number which is likely to go; does that assume the present state of demand for labour in that country, without reference to any useful or productive works of a colonial character that might be undertaken in the colony?

I referred to the actual state of British North America, and not to any prospective state.

9634. In that answer you referred to papers that are before Parliament?

Yes.

9635. That is the information upon which you rely?

The information on which I rely is principally derived from the Report of the Emigrant Agent, Mr. Buchanan.

9636. Have you any other information upon that subject?

No.

9637. In the disastrous emigration which took place during the time of the fever, have you any reason to know or to believe that the amount of emigration to British North America, which then took place, was found in surplus mainly on account of the disease, or on account of the numbers?

I cannot answer that question; but I apprehend that a very large proportion of that emigration passed into the States.

9638. Is not that the case at all times; take the emigration to New Brunswick, does not the year's emigration, upon the average, consist perhaps of two-thirds that pass into the United States?
The greater part pass into the United States.

9639. Was there anything in the circumstance of the passing of the emigration into the United States during that year, that at all altered the general view of the case, with respect to the general emigration into the British Provinces?
Nothing; it was the usual course.

9640. Have there been any alterations made in the laws of the Australian Provinces on the subject of the sale of lands, and the employment of the proceeds of land for emigration, since the Reports of Mr. Lowe and Mr. Cooper on the state of emigration and on the sale of lands?
No; there has been no alteration whatever.

9641. Have you been able to ascertain the amount of money sent over from America to Ireland?
We have endeavoured to ascertain it, but have received Returns only from some of the houses; those Returns, which do not include the house of Barings, show an amount remitted or expended in paying passages last year (1848) of upwards of 464,000 *l.*

9642. Have you any doubt whatever that to that must be added, above all in the last year, a very considerable amount of capital abstracted from this country, and employed in the settlement of those emigrants in America?
I have no doubt that the emigration of last year took out a very large amount of capital. I may mention that on board the Ocean Monarch, which was destroyed by fire at Liverpool, it was ascertained that 320 emigrants possessed among them 10,000 *l.*

9643. Have you not also had information communicated to you, and made known to the public, that in relation to some of the very ships which were most complained of in the British North American Colonies, as containing no class but helpless paupers, very considerable sums of money were found?
It has been so stated, and I have myself known an instance of a man who, on arriving in Canada, represented himself as a pauper, and was relieved as such, who had 70 *l.* in his pocket.

9644. At what rates of freight, as compared with the rates of freight of former years, have you been able to take out ships lately for the conveyance of emigrants, generally, to Australia?
At the beginning of last year freights were low; they have been gradually rising, and now they are between 13 *l.* and 14 *l.*; the average of the whole of last year was, I think, about 12 guineas.

9645. Do these ships find any difficulty in getting cargoes home?
I believe they generally go on to India.

9646. They do not freight home with copper ore?
Some of them do from South Australia.

9647. Is the state of the wool-market such now in Australia as to make it expedient or profitable to slaughter the sheep and convert them into tallow?
I have no information bearing upon that point.

9648. Have you read the Paper which has been laid before the other House of Parliament, with respect to the state of the emigrant Irish at Liverpool?
I hold it in my hand, and will hand it in.

[The Witness delivers in the same.—*See* Appendix.]

9649. Has there been, in the course of last year, any emigration going on from Ireland under the Poor Law?
There has been some emigration to North America, but not to any very great extent.

 9650. Is

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9650. Is the practice resumed in England?
I do not know; in Ireland it requires by Act of Parliament the sanction of the Secretary of State; there is no sanction required to it in England.

9651. Could you give the Committee a Return of the number in Ireland of emigrants so sent out?
I will.

The Witness is directed to withdraw.

VI.

SIXTH REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

OPERATION OF THE IRISH POOR LAW,

AND THE

EXPEDIENCY OF MAKING ANY AMENDMENT IN ITS ENACTMENTS;

AND TO REPORT THEREON TO THE HOUSE.

Session 1849.

Ordered to be printed 2d July 1849.

BY THE LORDS COMMITTEES appointed a SELECT COMMITTEE to inquire into the OPERATION of the IRISH POOR LAW, and the Expediency of making any Amendment in its Enactments; and to report to The HOUSE; and to whom leave was given to report from time to time to The HOUSE; and to whom were referred several PETITIONS and DOCUMENTS relating to the SUBJECT MATTER of the Inquiry :—

ORDERED TO REPORT,

THAT the Committee have met, and further considered the Subject Matter referred to them, and have agreed to the following RESOLUTIONS; viz.

I.

THAT the original Poor Law Act of 1838 was founded upon Inquiries, Reports and Recommendations, all of which led to the conclusion that the relief for Irish distress should be afforded through the medium of the Workhouse only; and that this conclusion was recognized and adhered to by the Legislature, both in 1838 and in 1846, when specific propositions for out-door relief were made, discussed, and on mature consideration rejected. That, up to the autumn of 1846, the Law of 1838 was not found inadequate to the general necessities of Ireland; and even under the altered circumstances of the country, and the destitution of large masses of the people, by the pressure of the potato failure during the last three years, 25 Unions out of 130 have confined all their grants of relief to the Workhouse; while others, and among them some in distressed districts, which had temporarily availed themselves of the power given under the Act of 1847 (10 & 11 Vict. c. 31) for the grant of out-relief, have, by improved management, been subsequently enabled altogether, or nearly so, to dispense with it.

Introduction.

Senior, 1493. Martin, 1934. 1937. 1942. Fairfield, 3345 to 3347. Twisleton, 6705. Power, 12 to 15. Senior, 1494, 1495. Huband, 1188 to 1193. Clarke, 7497. Otway, 8787. 8850.

II.

THAT though the Act of 1847, especially followed as it was by that for the punishment of vagrants (10 & 11 Vict. c. 84), appears to have been called for as a temporary measure to meet a pressing emergency, the abuses to which it has led, and the bad effects which have been produced on the general habits of the people by the extension, however necessary in some instances, of out-relief to the able-bodied, prove beyond all doubt, in the opinion of the Committee, that no permanent system for the relief of the Poor can be carried out in Ireland, safely and beneficially to receivers or payers, without a return to the principle of the original Law, by a strict application of in-door relief to all classes of paupers, subject only to occasional exception, under authority of the Poor Law Commissioners, of the old and impotent, when it is impossible to find room for them in the Workhouse.

Power, 721 to 724. Martin, 2032 to 2042. Gore, 2275, 2276. Labalmondiere, 5710. Twisleton, 6606, 6607. Martin, 2056 to 2058. Gore, 2267. 2270. Fairfield, 3640 to 3642. Gulson, 922–924. Martin, 2052 to 2055. Gore, 2265–2268. Hamilton, 4713. Stewart, 4739 to 4741. Lucas, 6693, 6694. Twisleton, 6709. Otway, 8795 to 8801. 8845 to 8849.

III.

THAT to effect this, additional Workhouse accommodation must be provided; and, considering the vast size of some of the present Unions, especially in the poorest parts of the country, the Committee concur in the recommendation of the Boundary Commissioners, that a considerable number of new Unions should be formed, and Workhouses attached to them, according to the order suggested by the comparative urgency of the several cases.

Fairfield, 3491, 3492. Stewart, 4763. Gulson, 1117–1121. Fairfield, 3512. Boundary Report, p. 9.

IV.

THAT, for the erection of new Workhouses in the distressed districts, it is indispensable that advances should be made on the same principles as those under the Act of 1838 for the Workhouses already erected; and that to obviate

any difficulties, such as have heretofore occurred in obtaining the most eligible sites for such Workhouses, the Poor Law Commissioners ought to be invested with power to take lands for their erection, similar to that now given by the Legislature for the erection of County Court Houses, Gaols and Lunatic Asylums.

V.

Boundary Report, pp. 7 and 11. Appendix, p. 15.

That the Committee are of opinion that a re-arrangement should be made of Electoral Divisions, on the principles successfully and beneficially adopted in the Province of Ulster, on the principles also proposed by the Boundary Commission, and in conformity with the spirit of the original instructions of the Poor Law Commissioners, as referred to in the Boundary Report.

VI.

Third Report, p. 5.

That the Committee have noticed in their former Report the great inequalities in the present valuations both of Unions and Electoral Divisions, and they now feel it their duty strongly to impress upon your Lordships the necessity of procuring, at the earliest possible period, a fair and uniform valuation throughout Ireland as the basis for rating. They also recommend that such valuation, when once adopted, should not be subject to alteration without an order of the Poor Law Commissioners, to be approved by the Lord Lieutenant in Council, and that fit and competent persons, duly sworn, should, on such order being given, be appointed by the Poor Law Commissioners to carry it into effect.

VII.

That, to guard against all inequality in the apportionment of the Poor-rates between Landlord and Tenant, no greater proportion than one-half of the Poor-rate actually paid should in any case be deducted from the person receiving rent in respect of any rateable property.

VIII.

That, to check the practice of subletting and subdividing lands which has produced much of the misery and pauperism of Ireland, the Committee recommend that where any such subletting and subdivision shall hereafter take place contrary to covenant, it shall deprive the party subletting or subdividing of all powers of deducting any part of the Poor-rate from his rent, and that he only shall be held liable for the rate.

IX.

That in all holdings of the rated value of £.30 a year and upwards, power be given for voluntary arrangements between Landlord and Tenant to throw the whole payment of the rates on the latter.

X.

That it has been shown that whilst in England rateable property is only liable for the Poor-rate last struck and in course of collection, in Ireland arrears of Poor-rate may accumulate to any extent, possibly to the absorption of the whole of the property; the Committee consider it good policy to encourage the owner to assist in the collection of the rates upon his estate, and only justice to enable him to free it from charges which might ultimately lead to its confiscation; they therefore recommend that it should be incumbent on the Poor Law Guardians to certify to the Landlord or his Agent half-yearly the amount of Poor-rates three months in arrear from the different Tenants on the estate on the 1st of May or 1st of November preceding. They further recommend, that when the Landlord, within two months of the receipt of such Notice, shall discharge the whole or any part of such arrears, he should be allowed Ten per cent. for costs of collection, and be empowered to recover the Tenant's portion by distress, and to proceed by ejectment when the rates of one year, or one year's rent, are outstanding.

XI.

That the practice in Ireland of holding the Landlord personally responsible for rates owing by outgoing and defaulting Tenants, and possibly so left outstanding by the neglect or connivance of the Poor Law Officers, appears unjust; and as the Committee cannot recommend a remission of such arrears, they consider that the responsibility should be limited to the person or persons originally liable, and to the land upon which such arrears have accrued. Captain Farren, 6386 to 6393.

XII.

That, to encourage as much as possible the investment of capital, and the employment of labour in the cultivation of land in Ireland, Farms should not be liable to re-valuation, or increased rating, on account of the erection of Farm Buildings, or of any drainage, or any other permanent agricultural improvements specified under the provisions of the Lands Improvement Act, until seven years after their completion.

XIII.

That the attention of the Committee has been directed to the technical difficulties, and the consequent injustice and expense incident to the prosecution of Appeals against Poor-rates; and they deem it not only right that no unnecessary obstructions should be offered to the Appellant, but that every fair opportunity should be afforded to enable him to free himself from unjust or excessive rating; and with the view of rendering the rating more correct, and of reducing the number of Appeals, now so inconveniently large, the Committee would recommend that the rate-books should be left for the inspection of the rate-payers during at least 14 days before the striking of a rate, and that the names of the occupiers of all holdings of £. 4 value and under should be given in the rate-books. They are also of opinion that in no case when the name of the immediate lessor is discoverable should that name be omitted from the book. That the agent of a proprietor seeking to appeal, should be legally entitled to do so in the name of his principal, and that his signature to the recognizance should be equally valid with that of his principal. That the mode of proceeding hereafter for the recovery of rates should be either before the Justices of the Peace at Petty Sessions, or before the Assistant Barristers, with an appeal (as in the case of civil bill) to the Judge of the next Assizes, the jurisdiction of the Assistant Barrister being enlarged for the purpose of enabling him to entertain causes to any amount. That a discretionary power should be vested in the Assistant Barrister to correct clerical errors, or variances in the forms of proceeding, which he considers casual and unimportant, so as to admit of a decision on the merits in cases in which it is of the utmost importance that there should be expeditious as well as cheap justice, this remedy being made equal and applicable to both parties. That it is also deserving of consideration whether the Sheriff who receives a fee for putting his name to the warrant for executing a decree should not be made responsible for the execution of the duty, though a public officer, thus rendering the law more effective for the recovery of rates.

XIV.

That, with the view of correcting some of the abuses practised in the administration of relief, the names of all recipients of relief should be entered, under the names of the townlands in which they are stated to have last resided, in a book to be kept for each Electoral Division, and that those books should be always open for the inspection of the rate-payers on two days in each week.

XV.

That the Committee have heard from several witnesses somewhat conflicting opinions on the operation of the clause in the Act of 1847, which prohibits relief to the occupiers of more than a quarter of an acre of land. It is clear that no surrender is required on the part of the tenant of any portion of his land, in order to qualify himself as an applicant for relief. If he ceases to occupy, that in itself is sufficient; under these circumstances he may cease to occupy a portion or portions of land, except the quarter of an acre upon which his Power, 309 to 366. 369 to 410. Martin, 2578 to 2590. Fairfield, 3622 to 3635. Bourke, 4186 to 4195. Twisleton, 6753. 6851 to 6899.

his house is situated. The non-occupation of such land by the tenant does not, without process of law, confer upon the landlord the right of re-entry, and resuming possession : the land therefore lies waste. It does not appear clear who is liable to the rates of such land, if any one indeed is liable ; the arrears, however, accumulate. If the landlord were to re-enter for the purposes of cultivation, without having taken legal steps to terminate the tenancy, he would be a wrong-doer, and if he tilled the lands, the original tenant would be entitled to enter at harvest and to take the produce. The land lying waste is likewise open to the possible occupation by a squatter holding without title, who cannot however be removed from such land without the troublesome and expensive process of ejectment. The Committee, therefore, recommend such explanation or amendment of that clause as may make its operation effective, uniform, and consistent with the interests of the owner, the occupier, and the public.

XVI.

That the appointment of Auditors, and the nature of the duties imposed upon those officers, are provided for by the 1 & 2 Vict. c. 56, s. 95 ; and that the Auditors are required to disallow and strike out of every account such charges as they shall deem illegal and unfounded, and reduce such as are exorbitant, and insert in every such account such charges against the person accounting as they shall deem such person liable to. That it does not appear from the evidence that such duties have been efficiently performed ; illegal appropriations of the rates in the administration of out-door relief without the authority of a valid order having in one case taken place in November 1847, and the abuse not having been corrected in April 1849, and no evidence appearing that in any one case monies so improperly expended have ever been refunded. That to no one duty should the attention of the Poor Law Commissioners be more strictly applied than to the enforcement of the functions of the Auditors, in their invariable supervision of the accounts of the Union accounts, and their enforcement of the law against all persons by whom any unauthorized expenditure shall have taken place.

XVII.

That in the distressed districts, and more especially in those in which it is proposed to establish new Unions and new Workhouses, the Committee recommend that after the functions of paid Guardians may have ceased, and in cases when there is no resident Inspector, the Poor Law Commissioners shall be authorized, on the request of the Board of Guardians, to name a paid resident Guardian to assist in the administration of relief and the management of the Workhouse.

XVIII.

Senior, 1894 to 1928.
Holden, 9376 to 9443.

That proofs have been brought before the Committee of the heavy expense incurred by the town of Belfast, as well as by other ports both in Great Britain and Ireland, for the maintenance of paupers thrown upon them in their passage between the two countries ; and the Committee think it their duty to bring this fact under your Lordships' notice, with a view to your considering whether the evil complained of can be obviated or diminished by any alteration in the Law respecting the removal of Irish paupers.

XIX.

Senior, 1802.
Kincaid, 3101.
Bourke, 4224 to 4233.
Leader, 4335.
Hamilton, 4603 to 4608.
Stewart, 4744 to 4749.
Strzelecki, 8590 to 8593.

That whatever measures may be adopted for the permanent relief of the poor of Ireland, the Committee are convinced, from the concurrent testimony of the many witnesses whom they have examined on that head, that in some districts the indigent classes who heretofore derived a precarious subsistence from their potato crop far exceed the means which under any probable circumstances those districts can be expected to supply for their support, and that the removal of a part of the superfluous population is therefore an indispensable condition to the future welfare of those districts.

XX. That

XX.

THAT, with this conviction impressed on their minds, the Committee earnestly recommend that measures be taken for aiding and promoting the emigration of those classes on some organized system, which shall enable such as are willing to leave Ireland, and are qualified to earn a livelihood in other countries, to remove thither cheaply and safely.

See Kincaid, 3103 to 3145.
See Stewart, 4749 to 4761.
See Murdoch.
See Otway, 8838. 8949 to 8952.

Strzelecki, 8607, 8608. 8618. 8592, 8593. 8637. 8646. 8650, 8651, 8652. Nicholls, 5871. 5873.—Larcom, 8862. 8864.—Griffith, 2880. Bourke, 4225. 3904. 4245.—Napier, 8503, 8504.—Hamilton, 4593, 4594, 4595.—Brett, 4995 to 5000.—Lucas, 6573, 6574.—Clarke, 7796. Bewley, 9520, 9521. 9522. 9524.—Gore, 2131, 2132.—Bewley, 9519. Fairfield, 3769. 3772.

XXI.

THAT the Committee have heard with great interest evidence detailing the proceedings of the British Association and of the Society of Friends. The noble, the munificent charity manifested not only throughout the British Empire, but in the United States of America, in foreign countries, and in the most distant colonial possessions, ought long to be remembered; and the prudent and discreet manner in which their funds were administered, and the disinterested assistance which they received from Count Strzelecki, Lord Robert Clinton, Lord James Butler, Mr. Higgins, Captain Whitmore, and other benevolent and generous persons, form an example for imitation, suggesting unbounded motives for respect and gratitude. The practical efforts made by the Society of Friends for the permanent improvement of the condition of the people by promoting agricultural instruction, a development of the fisheries, and an improvement of the industrial resources of Ireland, thus striking at the roots of pauperism, deserve much consideration; and although experiments of this description, tried at a moment of exigency, must be tried to very considerable disadvantage, they yet may suggest various modes of effecting internal improvement, which may be carried forward under better circumstances and with greater success. To this, the measures recommended by the Government, and adopted by the Legislature, will, it is hoped, largely contribute, extending the means of effecting land improvements, the completion of arterial drainage left in an unfinished state, the encouraging of fishery stations, and small piers and harbours. The assistance wisely granted to railroads in Ireland has a tendency to promote the natural resources of that country, to give a better reward for industry, and thus to create a more effective demand for labour. The progress of education, the connexion of agricultural instruction, not only with the Workhouses, but with certain of the national schools in Ireland, have already met the approval of Parliament. These measures will not only improve the physical condition of the people, but will have a salutary effect in raising their moral and social condition likewise; but much remains to be done to solve that difficult problem, which is forced upon the attention of Parliament by the present state of Ireland. In the solution of that problem, much more than the well-being of Ireland is involved; the interests of the two parties of the United Kingdom are inseparable. It is inevitable that the continued depression and ultimate ruin of Ireland cannot take place without the most fatal consequences to Great Britain. The loss of a great home market for manufactures, the loss of an independent means of supply of agricultural and raw produce would, in themselves, be great national calamities; but the danger to the social state of Great Britain, from the permanent misery and degradation of the people of Ireland is so great and so imminent, that the Committee is confident it will meet the attention which it deserves from the Public and the Imperial Legislature.

Bewley, 9407 to 9556.

And the Committee have directed an Appendix, together with an Index to the whole of the Evidence, to be laid before Your Lordships.

VI.

SIXTH REPORT

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORD

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

OPERATION OF THE IRISH POOR LAW

AND THE

EXPEDIENCY OF MAKING ANY AMENDMENT

IN ITS ENACTMENTS;

AND TO REPORT THEREON TO THE HOUSE.

Session 1849.

Ordered to be printed 2d July 1849.

A P P E N D I X

TO

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE

SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

OPERATION OF THE IRISH POOR LAW,

AND THE

EXPEDIENCY OF MAKING ANY AMENDMENT IN ITS ENACTMENTS.

TOGETHER WITH AN INDEX.

Session 1849.

Ordered to be printed 2d July 1849.

LIST OF APPENDIX.

Appendix.

A. 1.—Statement compiled from Returns furnished by the Union Clerks, showing for each Poor Law Union in Ireland,—

I.—The Average Numbers of Destitute Persons relieved in the Workhouse and out of the Workhouse, during September 1848.

II.—The Expenses of the Month; distinguishing the Cost of In-Maintenance, of Out-Relief, and of all other Expenses.

III.—The Progress of the Collection of Poor-Rate during the Month, compared with the Expenses of the Month.

IV.—The Financial Condition at the Close of the Month, the State of the Balance on the Treasurer's Account, and the Amount of Liabilities to Contractors or others, exclusive of any Sum due to Her Majesty's Government, on account of Building Loans or other Advances.

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APPENDIX A. 1.

POOR LAW COMMISSION, IRELAND.

STATEMENT, compiled from Returns furnished by the Union Clerks, showing for each POOR LAW UNION in IRELAND,—

I.—The Average Numbers of Destitute Persons relieved in the Workhouse, and out of the Workhouse, during September 1848.

II.—The Expenses of the Month; distinguishing the Cost of In-Maintenance, of Out-Relief, and of all other Expenses.

III.—The Progress of the Collection of Poor-rate during the Month, compared with the Expenses of the Month.

IV.—The Financial Condition at the Close of the Month, the State of the Balance on the Treasurer's Account, and the Amount of Liabilities to Contractors or others, exclusive of any Sum due to Her Majesty's Government, on account of Building Loans or other Advances.

V.—A Comparative Summary of the Collection and Expenses of the Twelve Months, from 29th September 1847 to September 1848.

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PROVINCE OF ULSTER. - - - - - - -

Names of Unions.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Workhouse Accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during September 1848.					Expenses of Relief during September 1848.					State of Collection during September 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Workhouse during the Month.	Average Number on the Out-Relief Lists during the Month.	Total Average Number relieved during the Month.	Proportion of the average Number relieved during September to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Proportion per Cent. on the Population of the highest Number of Persons on the Relief Lists under the Temporary Relief Act in 1847.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per Pound of the Expenses of September on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor-rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other Receipts than Poor-rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the Close of the Month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.		8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
								£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.
County Antrim:																
Antrim	49,168	1,050	539	- -	539	1·09	- -	159	- -	139	298	– –¾	- -	26	252	6,023
Ballycastle	26,020	640	285	- -	285	1·09	13·0	108	- -	74	182	– 1	84	99	135	164
Ballymena	74,022	1,030	599	- -	599	0·8	5·2	194	- -	543	737	– 1¾	188	188	496	325
Ballymoney	48,812	752	532	223	755	1·5	16·0	140	14	209	363	– 1¾	292	317	243	1,187
Belfast	100,992	3,320	2,196	- -	2,196	2·1	- -	726	- -	2,252	2,978	– 2½	3,047	3,211	2,127	11,040
Larne	38,758	780	455	- -	455	1·1	1·1	123	- -	79	202	– 1	365	365	169	2,890
Lisburn	75,444	1,210	496	- -	496	0·6	3·3	151	- -	238	389	– –¾	1,340	1,394	344	1,971
County Armagh:																
Armagh	110,408	1,300	687	116	803	0·7	16·2	178	12	2,965	3,155	– 4½	505	533	3,679	8,891
Lurgan	71,128	1,512	594	- -	594	0·8	8·2	208	- -	137	345	– 1	338	352	238	1,018
County Cavan:																
Bailieborough	49,385	1,295	947	906	1,853	3·7	39·0	216	77	117	410	– 1¾	669	716	303	6,032
Cavan [a]	97,271	1,850	1,546	1,785	3,331	3·4	30·3	434	188	488	1,110	– 2	4,768	4,828	2,187	11,352
Cootehill [b]	67,178	1,400	1,186	1,055	2,241	3·3	37·0	363	77	254	694	– 2½	287	373	407	15,925
County Donegal:																
Ballyshannon	43,403	870	502	301	803	1·8	28·0	129	19	67	215	– 1	94	154	488	7,516
Donegal	41,371	650	468	364	832	2·0	33·1	134	29	63	226	– 1¾	121	302	383	622
Dunfanaghy	18,571	300	129	- -	129	0·6	4·7	49	- -	46	95	– 2	53	29	10	342
Glenties	43,571	590	510	575	1,085	2·4	35·6	117	82	540	739	– 10¾	11	536	176	302
Inishowen	43,569	640	280	122	402	0·9	27·2	78	9	51	138	– 1	109	119	179	1,803
Letterkenny	25,921	870	281	- -	281	1·0	12·7	104	- -	125	229	– 1¾	92	88	598	2,808
Milford	38,108	510	165	- -	165	0·4	25·0	69	- -	52	121	– 1	25	33	197	92
Stranorlar	25,786	460	206	- -	206	0·8	25·1	58	- -	269	327	– 2¾	132	141	9	561
County Down:																
Banbridge	87,323	1,110	743	1,103	1,846	2·1	13·3	262	61	370	693	– 1½	590	624	88	1,946
Downpatrick	74,938	1,060	454	- -	454	0·6	9·0	153	- -	229	382	– –¾	254	286	1,095	458
Kilkeel	28,638	390	135	73	208	0·7	2·1	38	7	48	93	– –¾	324	334	120	200
Newry	95,541	1,350	1,007	565	1,572	1·6	15·5	280	53	224	557	– 1	626	670	563	7,376
Newtownards	60,165	1,135	487	- -	487	0·8	- -	165	- -	567	732	– 1½	1,143	1,220	641	1,932
County Fermanagh:																
Enniskillen [c]	81,534	1,370	1,012	449	1,461	1·7	12·1	385	20	220	625	– 1½	126	116	77	4,860
Lisnaskea	37,920	840	519	- -	519	1·3	17·2	131	- -	215	346	– 1	588	550	606	692
Lowtherstown [d]	34,963	640	284	149	433	1·2	16·1	83	13	61	157	– –¾	128	132	290	6,763
County Londonderry:																
Coleraine	52,704	960	438	- -	438	0·8	5·8	163	- -	111	274	– –¾	427	453	223	342
Londonderry	64,740	1,100	536	958	1,494	2·3	5·5	164	82	104	350	– –¾	215	264	430	4,508
Magherafelt	80,816	1,240	598	- -	598	0·7	13·6	176	- -	85	261	– –¾	348	476	325	2,016
Newtownlimavady	39,058	890	303	- -	303	0·7	9·2	100	- -	875	975	– 3¼	604	642	1,030	948
County Monaghan:																
Carrickmacross	39,728	950	604	1,128	1,732	4·3	24·9	175	109	375	659	– 3½	979	979	546	2,369
Castleblaney	58,945	1,270	585	- -	585	1·0	19·5	190	- -	506	696	– 2½	1,515	1,588	673	4,988
Clones	42,320	890	815	1,670	2,485	5·8	26·7	229	140	245	614	– 2¾	544	544	722	816
Monaghan	69,959	1,176	678	- -	678	0·9	25·0	244	- -	1,383	1,627	– 4	299	525	1,325	594
County Tyrone:																
Castlederg	21,368	500	187	- -	187	0·8	16·2	46	- -	111	157	– 1½	199	201	152	2,475
Clogher	39,800	700	464	224	688	1·7	20·8	137	19	85	241	– 1½	1,057	1,115	260	2,106
Cookstown	46,455	600	477	23	500	1·0	10·7	148	2	144	294	– 1½	- -	13	227	2,398
Dungannon	70,000	990	658	- -	658	0·9	11·2	177	- -	185	362	– 1	146	146	529	495
Gortin	18,747	428	101	- -	101	0·5	9·2	30	- -	67	97	– 1½	172	172	38	1,278
Omagh	69,099	1,104	678	101	779	1·1	20·7	174	2	511	687	– 2½	631	656	704	263
Strabane	58,883	960	523	- -	523	0·8	18·4	185	- -	329	514	– 1½	26	31	418	175
Total Ulster	2,362,132	42,682	24,889	11,890	36,779	1·5	15·8	7,573	1,015	15,758	24,346	– 1¾	23,461	25,541	23,702	130,862
Total for August	2,362,132	42,582	28,162	35,570	63,732	2·69	15·8	8,714	3,583	7,304	19,601	– 1½	16,572	17,877	22,273	122,685

[a] *Cavan.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 8 December 1847.

[b] *Cootehill.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 17 February 1848.

PROVINCE OF ULSTER.

Difference between the Collection and Expenses of September 1848.		Financial Condition at the Close of September 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the Twelve Months from 29th September 1847 to the Close of September 1848.							Names of Unions.
		Balance at Foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the Close of the Month.											
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.	Net Amount of Debts, deducting the Balance in Treasurer's Hands, if any.	Net Amount of Money in Hands of the Treasurer, remaining to Credit of Unions, after deducting the Amount of Debts.	Rate Collected and Lodged in the Twelve Months.	Expenses of the Twelve Months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the Twelve Months.	Average Amount per Pound of Collection during the Twelve Months on the entire Valuation.	Average Amount per Pound of Expenses during the Twelve Months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property on 29th September 1847.	
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	County Antrim:
- -	298	- -	526	966	- -	6,301	5,847	454	- -	1 3	1 2	101,568	- Antrim.
- -	98	1,329	- -	- -	1,125	3,089	3,698	- -	609	1 $6\frac{3}{4}$	1 $10\frac{3}{4}$	39,184	- Ballycastle.
- -	549	1,447	- -	- -	945	10,324	7,972	2,352	- -	2 $1\frac{1}{2}$	1 $7\frac{3}{4}$	97,548	- Ballymena.
- -	71	421	- -	249	- -	6,138	5,014	1,124	- -	1 $8\frac{1}{4}$	1 $4\frac{1}{2}$	73,016	- Ballymoney.
69	- -	1,203	- -	1,740	- -	23,106	25,126	- -	2,020	1 $8\frac{1}{4}$	1 10	275,272	- Belfast.
163	- -	537	- -	- -	257	3,926	3,833	93	- -	1 1	1 $-\frac{3}{4}$	72,384	- Larne.
951	- -	2,033	- -	- -	820	6,232	5,847	385	- -	- 11	- $10\frac{1}{4}$	137,212	- Lisburn.
													County Armagh:
- -	2,650	989	- -	- -	492	14,686	12,069	2,617	- -	1 $8\frac{1}{4}$	1 $4\frac{3}{4}$	175,436	- Armagh.
- -	7	2,847	- -	- -	2,165	16,100	13,142	2,958	- -	3 $5\frac{3}{4}$	2 10	93,105	- Lurgan.
													County Cavan:
259	- -	597	- -	2,760	- -	11,865	10,988	877	- -	4 $6\frac{3}{4}$	4 $2\frac{1}{2}$	52,244	- Bailieborough.
3,658	- -	3,549	- -	- -	2,282	26,697	20,401	6,296	- -	4 $3\frac{1}{4}$	3 $3\frac{1}{4}$	124,802	- Cavan.
- -	407	719	- -	1,975	- -	12,026	11,719	307	- -	3 $3\frac{1}{4}$	3 $2\frac{1}{4}$	73,395	- Cootehill.
													County Donegal:
-	121	418	- -	- -	499	7,227	5,913	1,314	- -	2 $9\frac{3}{4}$	2 $3\frac{1}{2}$	51,435	- Ballyshannon.
-	105	165	- -	85	- -	5,292	3,880	1,412	- -	3 4	2 $5\frac{1}{2}$	31,637	- Donegal.
-	42	19	- -	184	- -	1,063	1,551	- -	488	2 $-\frac{1}{4}$	2 $11\frac{1}{4}$	10,769	- Dunfanaghy.
-	728	770	- -	1,828	- -	3,256	8,072	- -	4,816	4 -	9 $10\frac{3}{4}$	16,389	- Glenties.
-	29	1,039	- -	- -	782	3,711	2,736	975	- -	2 $-\frac{1}{2}$	1 6	36,606	- Inishowen.
-	137	- -	478	906	- -	2,232	3,138	- -	906	1 $4\frac{3}{4}$	1 $11\frac{3}{4}$	31,835	- Letterkenny.
-	96	- -	302	679	- -	3,242	3,335	- -	93	2 $-\frac{3}{4}$	2 $1\frac{1}{2}$	31,318	- Milford.
- -	195	1,006	- -	- -	386	2,803	2,101	702	- -	1 $10\frac{3}{4}$	1 5	29,437	- Stranorlar.
													County Down:
-	103	599	- -	820	- -	9,375	8,388	987	- -	1 6	1 $4\frac{1}{4}$	123,434	- Banbridge.
-	128	955	- -	137	- -	5,697	7,177	- -	1,480	- 8	- $10\frac{1}{4}$	168,192	- Downpatrick.
231	- -	707	- -	- -	464	2,851	1,815	1,036	- -	1 $6\frac{1}{2}$	1 -	37,217	- Kilkeel.
69	- -	319	- -	557	- -	7,624	8,585	- -	961	1 2	1 $3\frac{3}{4}$	132,113	- Newry.
411	- -	1,274	- -	- -	626	9,260	6,793	2,467	- -	1 $6\frac{3}{4}$	1 $1\frac{3}{4}$	118,978	- Newtownards.
													County Fermanagh:
- -	499	- -	487	3,248	- -	12,004	10,250	1,754	- -	2 $5\frac{3}{4}$	2 $1\frac{1}{2}$	95,314	- Enniskillen.
242	- -	2,558	- -	- -	2,416	7,339	3,705	3,634	- -	3 $1\frac{1}{2}$	1 7	46,906	- Lisnaskea.
- -	29	- -	627	1,127	- -	5,854	6,015	- -	161	2 8	2 $8\frac{3}{4}$	43,954	- Lowtherstown.
													Co. Londonderry:
153	- -	781	- -	- -	297	4,768	4,827	- -	59	1 3	1 3	76,518	- Coleraine.
-	135	- -	194	937	- -	7,539	8,466	- -	927	1 4	1 6	112,902	- Londonderry.
87	- -	542	- -	480	- -	6,730	5,725	1,005	- -	1 $9\frac{1}{2}$	1 $6\frac{1}{4}$	75,257	- Magherafelt.
- -	371	1,419	- -	- -	1,026	5,154	4,021	1,133	- -	1 $6\frac{3}{4}$	1 $2\frac{3}{4}$	65,632	- Newtownlimavady.
													County Monaghan:
320	- -	1,687	- -	- -	763	8,733	7,172	1,561	- -	3 $7\frac{3}{4}$	3 0	47,892	- Carrickmacross.
819	- -	- -	119	2,478	- -	10,738	9,013	1,725	- -	3 $3\frac{1}{2}$	2 9	65,310	- Castleblaney.
- -	70	175	- -	819	- -	6,862	7,279	- -	417	2 6	2 $7\frac{3}{4}$	55,055	- Clones.
- -	1,328	2,550	- -	- -	1,664	10,280	7,189	3,091	- -	2 $2\frac{1}{4}$	1 $6\frac{1}{4}$	94,295	- Monaghan.
													County Tyrone:
42	- -	57	- -	497	- -	1,599	1,777	- -	178	1 $5\frac{1}{2}$	1 $7\frac{1}{2}$	21,790	- Castlederg.
816	- -	405	- -	- -	50	5,724	4,841	883	- -	2 $8\frac{1}{2}$	2 $3\frac{1}{2}$	42,269	- Clogher.
- -	294	- -	368	845	- -	2,696	3,882	- -	1,186	- $11\frac{1}{2}$	1 $4\frac{1}{2}$	56,535	- Cookstown.
- -	216	- -	692	1,738	- -	5,749	6,133	- -	384	1 $3\frac{1}{4}$	1 $4\frac{1}{4}$	90,731	- Dungannon.
75	- -	174	- -	611	- -	1,135	1,181	- -	46	1 $5\frac{1}{4}$	1 6	15,749	- Gortin.
- -	56	3,217	- -	- -	2,466	11,258	7,664	3,594	- -	3 -	2 $-\frac{1}{2}$	75,389	- Omagh.
- -	488	2,015	- -	- -	1,511	8,719	6,902	1,817	- -	2 $1\frac{3}{4}$	1 $8\frac{3}{4}$	81,527	- Strabane.
8,365	9,250	38,522	3,793	25,666	21,036	327,004	295,182	46,553	14,731	1 $11\frac{3}{4}$	1 $9\frac{1}{2}$	3,297,551	Total Ulster.
5,107	8,136	36,289	3,393	26,749	24,208	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3,297,551	Total for August.

[c] *Enniskillen.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March 1848.
[d] *Lowtherstown.*—Elected Guardians at the close of March, succeeded the Vice-Guardians who were appointed 18th September 1847.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Names of Unions.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Workhouse Accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during September 1848.					Expenses of Relief during September 1848.					State of Collection during September 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Workhouse during the Month.	Average Number on the Out-Relief Lists during the Month.	Total Average Number relieved during the Month.	Proportion of the average Number relieved during September to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Proportion per Cent. on the Population of the highest Number of Persons on the Relief Lists under the Temporary Relief Act in 1847.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per Pound of the Expenses of September on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor-rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other Receipts than Poor-rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the Close of the Month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.		8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
								£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.
County Clare:																
Ennis	77,840	2,000	2,187	9,027	11,214	14·4	61·5	657	1,032	812	2,501	– 6	1,026	1,027	1,002	2,338
Ennistymon [a]	49,935	1,150	1,595	11,104	12,699	25·4	69·2	438	997	651	2,086	– 7½	1,471	2,067	1,867	2,636
Kilrush [b]	82,353	1,530	1,002	12,031	13,033	15·8	62·3	251	1,300	330	1,881	– 7⅝	550	1,813	1,551	11,463
Scariff [c]	53,563	2,450	2,340	4,291	6,631	12·4	60·1	746	619	414	1,779	– 9½	324	2,424	1,813	3,170
County Cork:																
Bandon	81,772	2,075	1,563	- -	1,563	1·9	31·0	436	- -	1,414	1,850	– 3½	- -	- -	1,639	- -
Bantry [d]	56,165	1,100	889	1,915	2,804	5·0	62·0	243	354	222	819	– 4⅝	1,057	1,110	679	7,023
Cork	156,657	4,550	3,265	- -	3,265	2·1	21·2	1,078	- -	897	1,975	– 1½	247	313	2,234	22,806
Dunmanway	30,527	875	690	- -	690	2·3	55·5	175	- -	116	291	– 1⅜	223	227	426	6,823
Fermoy	92,353	1,740	1,062	1,917	2,979	3·2	48·0	332	119	379	830	– 1¼	539	556	1,992	24,791
Kanturk [e]	85,561	1,705	1,495	2,114	3,609	4·2	59·5	374	137	408	919	– 2	1,308	1,308	2,111	16,504
Kinsale	41,342	1,350	936	- -	936	2·2	37·3	253	- -	124	377	– 1⅛	269	269	345	7,455
Macroom	58,818	1,080	904	- -	904	1·5	45·0	284	- -	62	346	– –⅝	1,048	1,260	265	3,518
Mallow	63,282	1,250	672	- -	672	1·1	40·8	198	- -	443	641	– 1⅛	40	11	629	726
Midleton	78,428	3,159	1,417	- -	1,417	1·8	51·0	472	- -	370	842	– 1⅛	596	596	729	3,218
Skibbereen	104,508	2,180	2,002	347	2,349	2·2	49·0	416	44	816	1,276	– 3	2,300	2,299	2,173	3,820
County Kerry:																
Caherciveen [f]	30,888	1,140	410	89	499	1·6	62·7	126	13	120	259	– 2½	506	482	316	3,230
Dingle†	35,512	400	397	4,928	5,325	15·0	- -	111	558	110	779	– 6¼	792	771	905	544
Kenmare [g]	33,656	880	760	4,254	5,014	14·9	62·7	206	457	246	909	– 8⅝	680	726	864	3,440
Killarney	53,345	1,750	692	2,449	3,141	5·9	45·3	208	309	301	818	– 2½	2,646	2,746	1,605	4,975
Listowel	78,756	1,190	1,108	8,376	9,484	12·0	59·2	333	974	269	1,576	– 3⅜	2,508	2,465	2,972	3,530
Tralee	56,151	1,946	1,386	4,227	5,613	10·0	57·0	413	468	241	1,122	– 3¼	3,113	3,235	2,526	7,025
County Limerick:																
Kilmallock	75,687	1,850	1,508	248	1,756	2.3	56·8	462	18	420	900	– 1¼	3,578	3,724	2,270	13,889
Limerick	132,067	3,450	2,856	5,129	7,985	6.0	54·0	930	821	1,827	3,578	– 4	626	794	1,212	35,238
Newcastle [h]	60,007	1,400	1,119	2,954	4,073	6.8	76·3	330	347	739	1,416	– 3	2,726	2,535	1,266	23,416
Rathkeale	68,174	1,724	1,250	5,349	6,599	9.7	63·3	409	667	1,016	2,092	– 3⅜	4,427	4,456	3,646	7,646
County Tipperary:																
Carrick-on-Suir	45,333	1,300	440	454	894	2·0	28·0	162	62	268	492	– 1¼	393	428	648	8,111
Cashel	69,640	1,665	1,290	1,261	2,551	3·7	47 0	437	172	224	833	– 1½	1,621	1,255	1,654	10,582
Clogheen	47,033	1,200	721	1,105	1,826	3·9	54·6	238	108	185	531	– 2	682	683	289	8,869
Clonmel	39,993	1,900	1,151	1,607	2,758	6·9	35·8	403	189	339	931	– 2⅜	1,143	1,208	1,457	2,737
Nenagh	89,874	1,691	*1,485	3,227	4,712	5·2	53·7	*661	317	285	1,263	– 2⅝	942	978	656	9,281
Roscrea	63,016	1,230	960	4,077	5,037	8·0	41·7	348	520	348	1,216	– 2⅝	424	410	146	14,308
Thurles	71,976	966	887	6,599	7,486	10·4	50·0	276	642	473	1,391	– 3	276	291	293	4,607
Tipperary	79,516	1,050	1,085	6,311	7,396	9·3	44·0	377	715	640	1,732	– 2¾	1,915	1,940	2,166	11,291
County Waterford:																
Dungarvan	68,642	1,600	1,014	267	1,281	1·9	47·8	308	23	559	890	– 2¼	85	90	716	54
Lismore	38,617	1,690	976	83	1,059	2·7	66·7	265	7	283	555	– 2	5	5	80	191
Waterford [i]	84,360	2,372	*1,321	2,210	3,531	4·2	44·0	*438	249	267	954	– 1¼	2,407	2,434	2,119	16,508
Total Munster	2,435,347	60,598	44,835	107950	152785	6·3	50·2	13,794	12,238	16,618	42,650	– 2¾	42,493	46,936	47,261	306,25
Total for August	2,435,347	59,753	44,280	220480	264760	10·87	50·2	14,101	25,474	14,605	54,180	– 3½	38,684	42,235	49,143	223,43

[a] *Ennistymon.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 29th February 1848.

[b] *Kilrush.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 11th March 1848.

[c] *Scariff.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 28th October 1847.

[d] *Bantry.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th October 1847.

[e] *Kanturk.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th November 1847.

* Estimated.

† The Union of Dingle was declared on the 22d February 1848, being formed of Ten Electoral Divisions, previously belonging to Tralee Union.

PROVINCE OF MUNSTER.

Difference between the Collection and Expenses of September 1848.		Financial Condition at the Close of September 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the Twelve Months from 29th September 1847 to the Close of September 1848.							Names of Unions.
		Balance at Foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the Close of the Month.											
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.	Net Amount of Debts, deducting the Balance in Treasurer's Hands, if any.	Net Amount of Money in Hands of the Treasurer remaining to Credit of Unions, after deducting the Amount of Debts.	Rate Collected and Lodged in the Twelve Months.	Expenses of the Twelve Months.	Excess of Lodgments over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Lodgments for the Twelve Months.	Average Amount per Pound of Collection during the Twelve Months on the entire Valuation.	Average Amount per Pound of Expenses during the Twelve Months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property on 29th September 1847.	
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	County Clare:
- -	1,475	- -	- -	3,558	- -	28,611	32,289	- -	3,678	5 7¾	6 4½	101,283	- Ennis.
- -	615	337	- -	8,256	- -	18,698	25,921	- -	7,223	5 6½	7 8¼	67,486	- Ennistymon.
- -	1,381	- -	925	5,921	- -	12,439	21,992	- -	9,553	4 2¼	7 4¾	59,228	- Kilrush.
- -	1,455	1,287	- -	7,435	- -	14,590	28,119	- -	13,529	6 6½	12 7½	44,960	- Scariff.
													County Cork:
- -	1,850	1,991	- -	- -	1,268	9,057	12,424	- -	3,367	1 4	1 10	136,200	- Bandon.
238	- -	- -	530	5,955	- -	6,609	12,321	- -	5,712	3 2	5 10¾	41,874	- Bantry.
- -	1,728	3,586	- -	- -	2,120	29,301	32,198	- -	2,897	1 7¼	1 9¼	360,116	- Cork.
- -	68	186	- -	- -	186	6,509	6,023	486	- -	2 11½	2 8¾	43,859	- Dunmanway.
- -	291	- -	2,098	4,595	- -	22,391	25,473	- -	3,082	2 11	3 3¾	153,300	- Fermoy.
389	- -	4,059	- -	- -	2,860	36,012	28,214	7,798	- -	6 9½	5 3¾	106,620	- Kanturk.
- -	108	224	- -	380	- -	5,629	5,699	- -	70	1 6¼	1 6½	75,444	- Kinsale.
702	- -	3,832	- -	- -	3,353	14,797	10,074	4,723	- -	3 1½	2 1½	94,309	- Macroom.
- -	601	4,476	- -	- -	3,702	13,232	8,515	4,717	- -	2 1¾	1 4¾	122,740	- Mallow.
- -	246	5,400	- -	- -	4,171	23,671	16,277	7,394	- -	2 10¾	2 -	163,017	- Midleton.
1,024	- -	477	- -	1,665	- -	18,320	18,376	- -	56	3 8¾	3 9	98,364	- Skibbereen.
													County Kerry:
247	- -	596	- -	1,290	- -	3,832	6,982	- -	3,150	3 1¾	5 9	24,194	- Caherciveen.
13	- -	25	- -	1,007	- -	4,063	7,470	- -	3,407	2 9¾	5 1½	29,261	- Dingle.
- -	229	183	- -	3,452	- -	6,014	12,663	- -	6,649	4 10½	10 3	24,492	- Kenmare.
1,828	- -	1,645	- -	- -	863	25,179	22,553	2,626	- -	5 10½	5 3	85,304	- Killarney.
932	- -	143	- -	5,453	- -	22,668	26,952	- -	4,284	4 7¼	5 6½	97,168	- Listowel.
1,991	- -	696	- -	5,058	- -	22,103	25,628	- -	3,525	5 2¾	6 -¼	85,147	- Tralee.
													County Limerick
2,678	- -	2,150	-	- -	528	30,765	23,694	7,071	- -	3 5½	2 8	176,758	- Kilmallock.
-	2,952	- -	267	7,429	- -	34,264	36,822	- -	2,558	3 3¾	3 6¾	202,796	- Limerick.
1,310	- -	1,512	- -	3,072	- -	32,000	34,203	- -	2,203	5 10	6 3	108,089	- Newcastle.
2,335	- -	2,653	- -	- -	732	27,447	27,095	352	- -	4 2¾	4 2	129,985	- Rathkeale.
													County Tipperary:
- -	99	- -	456	2,231	- -	10,514	8,295	2,219	- -	2 4	1 10¼	89,951	- Carrick-on-Suir.
788	- -	471	- -	3,352	- -	17,256	21,979	- -	4,723	2 7¾	3 4½	130,026	- Cashel.
151	- -	708	- -	3,911	- -	8,383	11,390	- -	3,007	2 8	3 7½	62,770	- Clogheen.
212	- -	268	- -	- -	64	12,597	13,828	- -	1,231	2 9½	3 -⅛	91,450	- Clonmel.
- -	321	328	- -	† 7,215	- -	†20,880	†24,780	- -	3,900	3 5¾	4 1⅜	120,236	- Nenagh.
- -	792	364	- -	5,875	- -	13,357	17,808	- -	4,451	2 7¼	3 5¾	102,059	- Roscrea.
- -	1,115	22	- -	8,295	- -	15,308	22,291	- -	6,983	2 9¾	4 1	108,931	- Thurles.
183	- -	186	- -	5,104	- -	22,057	28,375	- -	6,318	2 11¼	3 10	148,214	- Tipperary.
													County Waterford:
- -	805	1,905	- -	- -	1,149	14,045	11,982	2,063	- -	2 11¾	2 6½	94,591	- Dungarvan.
- -	550	- -	106	1,666	- -	7,541	8,733	- -	1,192	2 4	2 8½	64,643	- Lismore.
1,453	- -	208	- -	2,393	- -	18,129	18,483	- -	354	1 10¾	1 11¼	191,474	- Waterford.
16,474	16,631	39,918	4,382	109,568	20,996	628,268	695,921	39,449	107,102	3 3¼	3 7½	3,836,339	Total Munster.
9,318	24,814	39,640	3,206	99,900	22,971	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	3,836,339	Total for August.

[f] *Caherciveen.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December 1847.
[g] *Kenmare.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 20th January 1848.
[h] *Newcastle.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 4th March 1848.
[i] *Waterford.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 25th March 1848.

† Estimated.

No workhouse accommodation had been provided, and no rate has been made in Dingle Union down to the close of May.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Names of Unions.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Workhouse Accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during September 1848.					Expenses of Relief during September 1848.					State of Collection during September 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Workhouse during the Month.	Average Number on the Out-Relief Lists during the Month.	Total Average Number relieved during the Month.	Proportion of the Average Number relieved during September to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Proportion per Cent. on the Population of the highest Number of Persons on the Relief Lists under the Temporary Relief Act in 1847.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per Pound of the Expenses of September on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the Close of the Month.
	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.		8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
								£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.
County Carlow:																
Carlow	77,922	2,100	1,303	71	1,374	1·8	31·7	505	4	891	1,400	– 2	1,841	1,891	2,064	2,878
County Dublin:																
Balrothery	28,116	600	287	629	916	3·3	12·0	135	82	242	459	– 1¼	544	557	660	1,937
Dublin, North	123,128	4,100	2,396	2,431	4,827	3·9	20·0	1,031	374	311	1,716	– 1	785	891	1,880	8,651
Dublin, South	178,745	2,535	2,227	4,048	6,275	3·5	14·8	840	578	1,529	2,947	– 1¼	3,192	3,346	4,051	21,937
Rathdown	44,214	726	420	334	754	1·7	13·2	200	49	322	571	– 1	1,091	1,196	1,229	2,940
County Kildare:																
Athy	47,912	1,120	560	697	1,257	2·6	34·0	196	205	94	495	– 1¼	356	365	335	16,186
Celbridge	25,242	400	186	– –	186	0·7	15·7	93	– –	108	201	– –¼	267	267	70	1,317
Naas	52,228	1,110	664	524	1,188	2·3	24·7	242	73	149	464	– –¾	124	221	229	128
County Kilkenny:																
Callan	38,524	1,130	554	2,833	3,387	8·8	48·7	181	319	268	768	– 2½	1,712	1,570	351	10,617
Kilkenny [a]	120,082	1,900	869	2,731	3,600	3·0	32·0	321	367	925	1,613	– 1½	3,386	3,392	1,555	24,728
King's County:																
Edenderry	34,679	840	468	809	1,278	3·7	10·1	169	108	66	343	– –¾	580	580	161	1,659
Parsonstown	76,528	1,700	983	– –	983	1·3	35·7	339	– –	316	655	– 1½	408	410	1,910	2,614
Tullamore [b]	53,905	1,200	944	2,668	3,612	6·7	35·0	376	252	964	1,592	– 4½	2,152	1,625	1,462	1,585
County Longford:																
Granard [c]	55,130	880	914	3,213	4,127	7·5	29·0	259	427	258	944	– 2½	126	201	261	2,202
Lougford [d]	87,757	1,480	1,243	6,377	7,620	8·7	37·7	313	617	980	1,910	– 3¾	2,111	2,111	1,286	19,487
County Louth:																
Ardee	43,348	770	* 447	932	1,379	– –	17·7	175	112	129	416	– 1	1,416	1,416	1,205	1,622
Drogheda	52,251	940	426	453	879	1·7	26·2	154	84	66	304	– –½	836	836	529	2,349
Dundalk	65,509	948	495	212	707	1·1	13·5	184	18	808	1,010	– 2¼	1,354	1,333	991	2,110
County Meath:																
Dunshaughlin	20,985	566	265	135	400	1·9	36·6	107	28	72	207	– –½	444	461	302	417
Kells	45,282	1,433	889	998	1,887	4·2	30·1	273	107	260	640	– 1½	877	941	758	14,326
Navan	35,831	780	418	1,509	1,927	5·4	35·6	159	205	196	560	– 1½	484	531	540	708
Oldcastle	48,373	944	911	2,394	3,305	6·8	36·6	245	279	1,004	1,528	– 4¾	769	1,012	1,445	4,091
Trim [e]	34,411	748	377	1,413	1,790	5·2	33·4	135	190	1,658	1,983	– 4¼	948	1,451	1,894	1,563
Queen's County:																
Abbeyleix	41,230	900	655	984	1,639	3·10	27·0	251	276	132	659	– 2½	1,288	1,279	1,211	4,457
Mountmelick	67,874	1,944	1,251	2,431	3,682	5·4	38·1	532	317	251	1,100	– 3	2,440	2,440	1,411	9,217
County Westmeath:																
Athlone [f]	72,168	1,150	1,099	2,792	3,891	5·4	41·2	311	224	361	896	– 2	947	947	1,041	3,614
Mullingar [g]	73,272	1,560	1,036	2,069	3,105	4·2	24·2	316	177	369	862	– 1	1,908	1,904	2,017	2,667
County Wexford:																
Enniscorthy	61,816	1,400	651	1,350	2,001	3·2	36·7	224	172	309	705	– 1½	543	568	1,992	16,247
Gorey	39,054	890	475	1,254	1,729	4·4	35·5	164	189	282	635	– 1½	2,649	2,305	718	3,126
New Ross [h]	74,293	1,800	751	6	757	1·0	41·7	273	1	826	1,100	– 2½	3,080	3,098	1,686	7,886
Wexford	53,401	800	544	– –	544	1·0	18·9	202	– –	304	506	– 1	831	848	519	3,346
County Wicklow:																
Baltinglass	40,687	900	658	902	1,560	3·8	15·7	221	127	429	777	– 2	1,092	1,614	776	2,878
Rathdrum	56,709	743	537	1,446	1,983	3·5	20·8	183	160	134	477	– –¾	663	663	591	4,658
Shillelagh	34,800	600	413	338	751	2·2	20·7	129	49	68	246	– 1	47	61	117	6,474
Total Leinster	2,006,036	41,637	26,316	48,983	75,299	3·7	27·9	9,438	6,170	15,081	30,689	– 1½	41,291	42,331	36,947	210,622
Total for August	2,006,036	42,113	28,367	75,937	104304	5·20	27·9	10,693	10,217	14,067	34,977	– 1¾	36,640	36,315	37,438	179,446

[a] *Kilkenny.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th February 1848.
[b] *Tullamore.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 9th February 1848.
[c] *Granard.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 19th February 1848.
[d] *Longford.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March 1848.
* Estimated.

PROVINCE OF LEINSTER.

Difference between the Collection and Expenses of September 1848.		Financial Condition at the Close of September 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the Twelve Months from 29th September 1847 to the Close of September 1848.							Names of Unions.
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	Balance at Foot of the Treasurer's Account at the Close of the Month. In favour of the Guardians.	Balance at Foot of the Treasurer's Account at the Close of the Month. Against the Guardians.	Net Amount of Debts, deducting the Balance in Treasurer's Hands, if any.	Net Amount of Money in Hands of the Treasurer, remaining to Credit of Unions, after deducting the Amount of Debts.	Rate Collected and Lodged in the Twelve Months.	Expenses of the Twelve Months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the Twelve Months.	Average Amount per Pound of Collection during the Twelve Months on the entire Valuation.	Average Amount per Pound of Expenses during the Twelve Months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property on 29th September 1847.	
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	County Carlow:
441	- -	440	- -	- -	293	21,230	20,912	318	- -	2 4½	2 4	179,103	- Carlow.
													County Dublin:
85	- -	- -	90	749	- -	5,252	5,445	- -	193	1 1¼	1 1¾	95,296	- Balrothery.
- -	931	329	- -	3,881	- -	37,100	38,626	- -	1,526	2 -	2 1	369,391	- Dublin, North.
245	- -	70	- -	- -	56	44,078	51,193	- -	7,115	1 6¼	1 9¼	581,316	- Dublin, South.
520	- -	550	- -	1,134	- -	10,400	10,204	196	- -	1 4½	1 4	153,986	- Rathdown.
													County Kildare:
- -	139	- -	1,019	2,807	- -	9,303	10,322	- -	1,019	1 9¾	2 -	103,183	- Athy.
66	- -	1,850	- -	- -	614	5,657	4,179	1,478	- -	- 10½	- 7¾	128,540	- Celbridge.
- -	340	1,165	- -	51	- -	12,288	11,025	1,263	- -	1 8¾	1 6¼	142,693	- Naas.
													County Kilkenny:
944	- -	- -	1,293	4,050	- -	11,082	14,506	- -	3,424	2 7½	3 5½	84,509	- Callan.
1,773	- -	2,913	- -	- -	317	31,474	22,200	9,274	- -	2 7¼	1 10	241,671	- Kilkenny.
													King's County:
237	- -	179	- -	455	- -	5,402	5,270	132	- -	1 1¼	1 -¾	98,634	- Edenderry.
- -	247	888	- -	- -	828	12,467	8,857	3,610	- -	2 3¼	1 7½	109,286	- Parsonstown.
560	- -	874	- -	245	- -	18,253	15,341	2,912	- -	4 2½	- -	86,514	- Tullamore.
													County Longford:
- -	818	373	- -	2,602	- -	13,165	13,189	- -	24	3 -¼	3 -¼	87,209	- Granard.
201	- -	958	- -	3,752	- -	18,154	19,226	- -	1,072	2 11	3 1	124,496	- Longford.
													County Louth:
1,000	- -	661	- -	- -	1,293	12,746	9,522	3,224	- -	2 8¾	2 -⅛	93,286	- Ardee.
532	- -	317	- -	962	- -	10,160	9,364	796	- -	1 6¾	1 5¼	130,476	- Drogheda.
344	- -	289	- -	195	- -	7,705	7,733	- -	28	1 5¼	1 5⅛	106,672	- Dundalk.
													County Meath:
237	- -	513	- -	240	- -	7,791	7,059	732	- -	1 3¾	1 2¼	118,478	- Dunshaughlin.
237	- -	273	- -	2,799	- -	11,621	12,663	- -	1,042	1 10½	2 -⅜	123,329	- Kells.
- -	76	- -	335	2,579	- -	9,343	10,872	- -	1,529	1 10	2 1¾	101,527	- Navan.
- -	759	1,304	- -	417	- -	18,062	16,531	1,531	- -	4 6½	4 1⅜	179,757	- Oldcastle.
- -	1,035	1,639	- -	- -	750	9,730	9,319	411	- -	1 11¼	1 10¼	100,829	- Trim.
													Queen's County:
629	- -	69	- -	2,069	- -	12,281	11,368	913	- -	3 8¼	3 4¾	65,992	- Abbeyleix.
1,340	- -	- -	1,654	3,419	- -	15,382	17,161	- -	1,779	3 5	3 9¾	92,514	- Mountmelick.
													County Westmeath:
51	- -	61	- -	1,923	- -	14,332	13,180	1,152	- -	2 9¼	2 6¾	103,314	- Athlone.
1,046	- -	3,090	- -	- -	2,873	19,530	16,417	3,113	- -	2 -½	1 8¾	190,944	- Mullingar.
													County Wexford:
- -	162	- -	1,392	2,002	- -	15,605	15,453	152	- -	2 5⅛	2 5¼	126,942	- Enniscorthy.
2,014	- -	2,546	- -	- -	1,956	11,583	9,923	1,660	- -	2 5½	2 1¾	93,962	- Gorey.
1,980	- -	438	- -	2,960	- -	17,440	17,738	- -	298	3 2¾	3 2¾	109,543	- New Ross.
325	- -	2,165	- -	- -	1,694	11,688	9,505	2,183	- -	2 -¾	1 8	113,912	- Wexford.
													County Wicklow:
315	- -	1,394	- -	- -	812	8,582	8,436	146	- -	1 10¾	1 10¼	90,886	- Baltinglass.
186	- -	1,140	- -	- -	634	8,009	8,451	- -	442	1 -⅛	1 1¾	153,153	- Rathdrum.
- -	199	- -	640	1,517	- -	4,720	4,388	332	- -	1 5⅛	1 4¼	64,485	- Shillelagh.
15,308	4,706	26,488	6,423	38,206	12,120	481,615	465,578	35,528	19,491	2 -¼	1 11½	4,745,828	Total Leinster.
8,973	7,310	23,409	8,722	42,030	9,569	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	4,745,828	Total for August.

[e] *Trim.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th January 1848.
[f] *Athlone.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 22d January 1848.
[g] *Mullingar.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 6th May 1848.
[h] *New Ross.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 21st March 1848.

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT. - - - - - -

Names of Unions.	Population according to the Census of 1841.	Total Number for which Workhouse Accommodation is provided.	Numbers relieved during September 1848.					Expenses of Relief during September 1848.					State of Collection during September 1848.			
			Average Number of Inmates in the Workhouse during the Month.	Average Number on the Out-Relief Lists during the Month.	Total Average Number relieved during the Month.	Proportion of the Average Number relieved during September to each 100 of the Census Population of 1841.	Proportion per Cent. on the Population of the highest Number of Persons on the Relief Lists under the Temporary Relief Act in 1847.	Cost of In-Maintenance.	Cost of Out-Relief.	Cost of Establishment and other Expenses.	Total Expenses.	Amount per Pound of the Expenses of September on the entire Valuation.	Amount of Poor Rate collected.	Amount lodged with the Treasurer, including other Receipts than Poor Rate.	Amount disbursed by the Treasurer.	Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the Close of the Month.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.		8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.
County Galway:								£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	£.	£.	£.	£.
Ballinasloe - -	99,026	1,600	1,282	8	1,290	1·3	32·5	507	2	508	1,017	– 1½	224	256	1,384	5,847
Clifden [a] - -	33,465	346	392	12,109	12,501	37·3	86·6	172	1,726	321	2,219	2 3¾	18	2,199	2,433	694
Galway [b] - -	88,973	1,800	1,694	10,478	12,172	13·7	74·7	578	1,175	918	2,671	– 6¼	195	169	196	6,652
Gort [c] - - -	43,543	1,500	1,541	2,189	3,730	8·5	85·8	460	242	937	1,639	– 7½	20	1,113	1,015	13,737
Loughrea [d] - -	71,774	2,000	1,899	1,029	2,928	4·1	47·0	434	89	206	729	– 2	155	168	160	14,629
Tuam [e] - - -	74,974	1,770	1,594	3,711	5,305	7·1	83·7	415	453	816	1,684	– 4¾	2,521	2,411	2,743	4,473
County Leitrim:																
Carrick-on-Shannon [f]	67,077	1,460	8,319	3,503	11,822	17·6	47·8	379	458	635	1,472	– 5¾	550	903	848	3,852
Manorhamilton -	45,990	940	477	132	609	1·3	16·1	119	6	126	251	– 1¼	71	571	392	6,495
Mohill [g] - - -	68,859	930	851	4,590	5,441	7·9	23·5	224	586	887	1,697	– 7	1,220	1,286	1,869	11,262
County Mayo:																
Ballina [h] - -	120,787	2,604	2,365	21,267	23,632	19·6	78·5	751	3,166	1,352	5,269	1 1¼	80	2,439	3,334	17,294
Ballinrobe [i] - -	85,031	800	1,265	16,460	17,725	20·8	93·2	338	1,931	520	2,789	– 7¾	68	2,958	3,682	5,600
Castlebar [j] - - -	61,063	900	998	9,382	10,380	17·0	76·0	314	1,046	510	1,870	– 8¾	396	2,222	2,247	5,874
Swineford - -	73,529	1,300	1,361	1,838	3,199	4·3	84 0	323	233	327	883	– 4½	605	621	623	4,082
Westport [k] - -	77,952	1,030	1,036	8,274	9,310	12·0	85·7	358	913	263	1,534	– 9½	315	1,997	1,677	2,363
County Roscommon:																
Boyle [l] - - -	71,355	900	*810	1,917	2,727	3·8	48·3	*325	243	484	1,052	– 3	705	607	871	4,076
Castlerea [m] - -	92,861	1,150	1,457	9,333	10,790	11·6	54·0	382	1,079	450	1,911	– 4	2,720	2,720	1,911	14,110
Roscommon [n] - -	83,437	1,780	2,040	8,827	10,867	13·0	49·4	704	1,028	332	2,064	– 5¾	3,314	3,320	3,960	8,112
County Sligo:																
Sligo - - -	111,054	2,072	1,596	1,900	3,496	3·1	48·0	439	172	509	1,120	– 1¾	293	2,206	1,920	17,229
Total Connaught - -	1,370,753	24,882	30,977	116947	147924	10·8	62·4	7,222	14,548	10,101	31,871	– 5½	13,470	28,166	31,265	146,381
Total for August -	1,370,753	23,842	27,558	223363	250921	18·30	62·4	6,859	27,398	9,537	43,794	– 7¼	10,211	34,305	37,213	92,248
SUMMARY:																
Ulster - -	2,362,132	42,682	24,889	11,890	36,779	1·5	15·8	7,573	1,015	15,758	24,346	– 1¾	23,461	25,541	23,702	130,862
Munster - -	2,435,347	60,598	44,835	107950	152785	6·3	50·2	13,794	12,238	16,618	42,650	– 2¾	42,493	46,936	47,261	306,251
Leinster - -	2,006,036	41,637	26,316	48,983	75,299	3·7	27·9	9,438	6,170	15,081	30,689	– 1½	41,291	42,331	36,947	210,622
Connaught - -	1,370,753	24,882	30,977	116947	147924	10·8	62·4	7,222	14,548	10,101	31,871	– 5½	13,470	28,166	31,265	146,381
Total, September -	8,174,268	169,799	127,017	285770	412787	5·0	36·8	38,027	33,971	†57558	129556	– 2¼	120715	142974	139175	794,116
„ August -	8,174,268	168,290	128,367	555350	683717	8·36	36·8	40,367	66,672	45,513	152552	– 2¾	102107	130732	146067	617,816

[a] *Clifden.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 7th February 1848.
[b] *Galway.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 3d January 1848.
[c] *Gort.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th February 1848.
[d] *Loughrea.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th February 1848.
[e] *Tuam.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 18th February 1848.
[f] *Carrick-on-Shannon.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 26th January 1848.
[g] *Mohill.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 10th December 1847.

* Estimated.

† £.5,361 is included in the 10th column, headed "Establishment, &c.," being the expenses of Temporary Fever Hospitals, making the total for

PROVINCE OF CONNAUGHT.

Difference between the Collection and Expenses of September 1848.		Financial Condition at the Close of September 1848.				Summary of Collection and Expenses during the Twelve Months from 29th September 1847 to the Close of September 1848.							Names of Unions.
		Balance at Foot of the Treasurer's Account, at the Close of the Month.											
Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection.	In favour of the Guardians.	Against the Guardians.	Net Amount of Debts, deducting the Balance in Treasurer's Hands, if any.	Net Amount of Money in Hands of the Treasurer, remaining to Credit of Unions, after deducting the Amount of Debts.	Rate Collected and Lodged in the Twelve Months.	Expenses of the Twelve Months.	Excess of Collection over Expenses.	Excess of Expenses over Collection for the Twelve Months.	Average Amount per Pound of Collection during the Twelve Months on the entire Valuation.	Average Amount per Pound of Expenses during the Twelve Months on the entire Valuation.	Valuation of Rated Property at Commencement of the Year.	
17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	
£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	s. d.	s. d.	£.	County Galway:
- -	793	725	- -	- -	168	19,160	16,217	2,943	- -	2 6 ¼	2 1 ¾	151,707	- Ballinasloe.
- -	2,201	436	- -	5,237	- -	2,529	23,405	- -	20,876	2 7 ½	24 4 ¼	19,216	- Clifden.
- -	2,476	12	- -	11,843	- -	7,457	33,810	- -	26,353	1 5 ¾	6 8	101,413	- Galway.
- -	1,619	19	- -	11,869	- -	8,225	20,121	- -	11,896	3 1 ¼	7 7	53,037	- Gort.
- -	574	- -	296	2,703	- -	12,477	14,460	- -	1,983	2 9	3 2 ¼	90,978	- Loughrea.
837	- -	666	- -	5,103	- -	14,025	18,107	- -	4,082	3 3	4 2 ½	86,229	- Tuam.
													County Leitrim:
- -	922	208	- -	5,752	- -	8,874	17,911	- -	9,037	2 10 ¾	5 10	61,450	- Carrick-on-Shannon.
- -	180	278	- -	94	- -	6,459	5,341	1,118	- -	2 8 ¾	2 3	47,279	- Manorhamilton.
- -	477	331	- -	1,482	- -	7,424	14,389	- -	6,965	2 6 ¼	4 10 ½	59,018	Mohill.
													County Mayo:
- -	5,189	163	- -	11,303	- -	10,177	52,282	- -	42,105	2 1 ½	10 11	95,770	- Ballina.
- -	2,721	1,345	- -	2,457	- -	8,533	37,653	- -	29,120	2 –	8 10	85,217	- Ballinrobe.
- -	1,474	630	- -	5,273	- -	4,216	27,008	- -	22,792	1 7 ¾	10 7 ¼	50,981	- Castlebar.
- -	278	- -	- -	7,186	- -	6,146	13,725	- -	7,579	2 8	5 9 ¾	45,966	- Swineford.
- -	1,219	309	- -	3,355	- -	6,013	27,418	- -	21,405	3 1	14 1 ¼	38,876	- Westport.
													County Roscommon:
- -	347	551	- -	2,191	- -	11,075	11,158	- -	83	2 9 ¼	2 9 ½	80,159	- Boyle.
809	- -	- -	212	3,066	- -	13,824	18,492	- -	4,668	2 5 ¼	3 2 ¾	114,349	- Castlerea.
1,250	- -	- -	1,277	9,285	- -	17,848	26,506	- -	8,658	4 1 ¾	6 2	85,864	- Roscommon.
													County Sligo:
- -	827	948	- -	6,629	- -	18,297	21,205	- -	2,908	2 5 ¾	2 10 ½	147,076	- Sligo.
2,896	21,297	6,793	1,785	94,833	168	182,759	399,208	4,061	220,510	2 7	5 7 ¾	1,414,585	Total Connaught.
1,047	34,630	10,079	1,860	103,616	929	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1,414,585	Total for August.
													SUMMARY:
8,365	9,250	38,522	3,793	25,666	21,036	327,004	295,182	46,553	14,731	1 11 ¾	1 9 ¼	3,297,551	- Ulster.
16,474	16,631	39,918	4,382	109,568	20,996	628,268	695,921	39,449	107,102	3 3 ¼	3 7 ½	3,836,339	- Munster.
15,308	4,706	26,488	6,423	38,206	12,120	481,615	465,578	35,528	19,491	2 – ¼	1 11 ½	4,745,828	- Leinster.
2,896	21,297	6,793	1,785	94,833	168	182,759	399,208	4,061	220,510	2 7	5 7 ¾	1,414,585	- Connaught.
43,043	51,884	111,721	16,383	268,273	54,320	1,619,646	1,855,889	125,591	361,834	2 5 ¼	2 9 ½	13294303	Total, September.
24,445	74,890	109,417	17,181	272,295	57,677	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	13294303	Total, August.

[h] *Ballina.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 24th December 1847.
[i] *Ballinrobe.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July 1847.
[j] *Castlebar.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 13th July 1847.
[k] *Westport.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 16th August 1847.
[l] *Boyle.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 9th May 1848.
[m] *Castlerea.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 17th February 1848.
[n] *Roscommon.*—Vice-Guardians appointed 31st December 1847.

In-Maintenance, Out-Relief, and Temporary Fever Hospitals, £. 77,359, leaving £. 52,197 for "Establishment and all other Expenses."

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of the Liabilities of the

I.—The Total Debts of *all* Unions to Contractors, Treasurers, or others (*exclusive* of all Loans obtained from Government, or from Private Parties simply for *Building purposes*), amounted, on the { 29 Sept. 1848, to £. 325,674, } from which { 29 Sept. 1847, to £. 272,943, } money in the

II.—The Number of Unions in which the Debts on the { 29 Sept. 1848, } exceeded the amount of the money { 29 Sept. 1848, 86; } the Debts of those { 29 Sept. 1848 to { 29 Sept. 1847, } in the Treasurers' hands, was, on { 29 Sept. 1847, 117; } Unions amounted, on { 29 Sept. 1847 to

III.—The Number of Unions in which the money in the { 29 Sept. 1848, 45; } the money in the hands of the Treasurers of those Unions amounted, on { 29 Sept. 1848, to £. 83,479 } { 29 Sept. 1847, 13; } { 29 Sept. 1847, to £. 25,730 }

Note.—The Debts due to Government or the British Association on account

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COMPARATIVE STATEMENT of Collection and Expenses for the Twelve Months, from 30th Sept. 1847 to 29th Sept. 1848, inclusive; showing the Amount advanced by the British Association in aid of the Poor Rates on the Recommendation of the Poor Law Commissioners (*exclusive* of the Expenditure of the Association in providing Food and Clothing for Children in the Public Schools), together with the Advances made by Her Majesty's Government.

MONTH.	Expenses for Support of the Poor and of Establishment.	For Repayment of Advances under the Temporary Relief Act, 10 Vict. c. 7.	Total Expenses.	Amount of Rate collected.	Net Excess of Collection.	Net Excess of Expenses.	Amount advanced by the British Association or by the Government.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
1847: October	75,961	-	75,961	121,255	45,294	-	300
„ November	91,903	545	92,448	151,684	59,236	-	450
„ December	125,770	3,144	128,914	168,850	39,936	-	1,300
1848: January	156,015	1,000	157,015	194,054	37,839	-	2,600
„ February	171,465	1,200	172,665	187,064	14,399	-	11,251
„ March	187,222	5,663	192,885	138,449	-	54,436	16,730
„ April	176,279	-	176,279	111,981	-	64,298	23,899
„ May	169,720	-	169,720	114,518	-	55,202	30,715
„ June	194,630	421	195,051	121,571	-	73,480	39,155
„ July	199,204	727	199,931	95,452	-	104,479	54,618
„ August	159,745	-	159,745	102,107	-	57,638	37,649
„ September	115,122	20,153	135,275	120,715	-	14,560	23,910
Total, 12 Months	*1,823,036	32,853	*1,655,889	*1,627,700	195,904	424,093	†242,577
					or £. 228,189 net excess of Expenses.		

* A sum of £. 5,457 is included in the ordinary expenses of the year for "Repayment of the Workhouse Building Loans." The expenses of the the Monthly Returns have been included

† The Unions to which the Advances were made to the close of September, by the British Association, or by the Government, and

Ulster Province.		Munster Province.				Leinster Province.	
Cavan	£. 300	Bantry	£. 3,400	Kilrush	£. 6,780	Athlone	£. 507
Glenties	5,207	Cahirciveen	3,191	Nenagh	500	New Ross	500
		Dingle	2,400	Scariff	13,580		
Total	£. 5,507	Ennistymon	1,000	Waterford	15	Total	£. 1,007
		Kenmare	5,461	Total	£. 36,352		

‡ A difference appears between the Total Collection of the year and

Unions on 29th September 1847, and 29th September 1848.

amount, deducting the { 29 Sept. 1848, £.111,721, } the net amount of Debts, over and { 29 Sept. 1848, £.213,953.
Treasurers' hands, viz. { 29 Sept. 1847, £.39,966, } above the money in hands, would be, { 29 Sept. 1847, £.232,977.

£.296,515, } and the money in their Trea- { 29 Sept. 1848, to £.28,242, } deducting which amount, the net amount of Debts, { 29 Sept. 1848, £.268,273.
£.266,963, } surers' hands amounted, on { 29 Sept. 1847, to £.14,236, } over and above the money in hands, would be, on { 29 Sept. 1847, £.252,727.

and the Debts { 29 Sept. 1848, to £.29,159, } deducting which there would remain a net { 29 Sept. 1848, to £.54,320.
amounted, on { 29 Sept. 1847, to £.5,980, } balance to their credit, amounting, on { 29 Sept. 1847, to £.19,750.

of Loans, are excluded from this Statement.

STATEMENT showing the Amount of Poor Rate Collected during each Month since the Commencement of the Financial Year ended 29th September 1846; also, the Amount Uncollected, and the state of the Balances at foot of the Treasurers' Accounts at the Close of each Month.

MONTH.	Amount of Rate collected during each Month.			Amount of Rate remaining uncollected at the Close of the Month.			Amount in hands of Treasurers of certain Unions at the Close of the Month.			Amount due to Treasurers of remaining Unions at the Close of the Month.		
	Year ended 29 Sept. 1846.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1847.	Year ended 29 Sept 1848.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1846.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1847.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1848.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1846.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1847.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1848.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1846.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1847.	Year ended 29 Sept. 1848.
	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.
October - - -	27,605	26,805	121,255	174,298	225,815	864,049	24,840	32,114	64,444	10,145	11,089	28,782
November - - -	30,792	36,639	151,684	183,392	244,050	859,718	32,087	34,393	105,893	8,679	14,746	16,879
December - - -	33,262	46,440	168,850	193,380	243,384	890,639	37,300	35,358	145,706	9,495	19,452	8,788
January - - -	36,229	52,439	194,054	219,052	250,953	788,511	41,362	33,274	177,228	7,358	23,565	4,395
February - - -	41,885	47,264	187,064	206,664	279,140	653,856	54,314	30,383	208,545	5,294	28,312	3,728
March - - - -	38,909	52,561	138,449	174,734	2 65,149	661,855	57,129	26,493	180,409	5,014	31,112	5,261
April - - - -	38,436	63,110	111,981	173,956	349,773	610,095	55,986	21,611	162,823	6,580	32,278	8,463
May - - - -	31,230	64,865	114,518	163,508	406,223	655,926	57,655	15,424	157,147	6,152	30,526	8,798
June - - - -	30,630	59,436	121,571	150,201	463,730	605,548	56,425	14,404	151,889	6,649	31,897	9,121
July - - - -	24,185	62,097	95,452	129,125	594,120	606,351	47,801	18,726	117,033	7,368	34,860	15,784
August - - - -	17,173	53,389	102,107	135,233	690,103	617,816	44,350	25,210	109,417	8,165	35,507	17,181
September - - -	21,510	73,358	120,715	155,718	816,452	794,116	39,913	39,966	111,721	8,071	29,841	16,383
Total - - -	371,846	638,403	1,627,700 ‡	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

12 months are taken from revised Returns received from the Clerks of Unions; and sums previously omitted by the Clerks of Unions from in the revised Returns for the year.

the Amounts, are subjoined, the Amounts being taken from the Returns furnished weekly, showing the Amount of Advances:—

Connaught Province.

Ballina - - -	£.36,260	Clifden - - -	£.17,666	Swineford - - -	£.3,190
Ballinrobe - - -	29,709	Galway - - -	23,993	Tuam - - - -	5,300
Boyle - - - -	1,100	Gort - - - -	3,200	Westport - - -	21,020
Carrick-on-Shannon -	10,284	Mohill - - -	8,000		
Castlebar - - -	21,690	Roscommon - - -	5,020	Total Connaught -	£ 199,711
Castlerea - - -	8,450	Sligo - - - -	4,829		

the amount of the Lodgments, amounting to £.8,054.

Appendix A. 2.

RECENT CIRCULAR LETTERS relating to the Repayment of Treasury Advances under 9 Vict. c. 7.

—1.—

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
1848.

Sir,

With reference to the Rates next to be levied in Union, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland desire to acquaint the Guardians, concerning the sums due on account of Advances made by the Relief Commissioners in 1847, on the credit of the Rates, that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury require, that such Rates should be made in the ensuing season as will allow of repayment being duly made, wholly or in part, and that the Rates should be made sufficiently early to admit of their being collected at the usual period after Harvest, and of the repayment being at once made out of the produce of the Rates.

It will be remembered that the Advances were made under the Act 10 Vic. c. 7, only upon the Board of Guardians having resolved to make a Rate for the purposes of the Act, and the Inspector of the Union having certified to the Relief Commissioners that such resolution had been passed, and that, to the best of his belief, the Guardians were proceeding with all possible dispatch to make and levy such Rate.

The sum to be demanded from each Electoral Division, in the Rate after Harvest, is to be regulated by the the amount of expenses *actually incurred* in the maintenance of the Poor from Michaelmas 1847, to 25th March 1848.

If the *entire* debt of any Electoral Division to the Relief Commissioners, added to the expenses actually incurred in the above half-year, would *not* exceed 3*s.* in the pound, in that case, the payment of the *entire* debt must be provided for in the Rate, in addition to the sum necessary to defray the prospective expenditure to the 25th March 1849, at least, including existing debts. But if the debt, added to the expenses incurred in the half-year ended 25th March last, would *exceed* 3*s.* in the pound, in that case, repayment should be provided for in the Rate, only to the extent of the difference between the expenses of that half-year and 3*s.* in the pound.

The sum to be repaid by each Electoral Division after Harvest, calculated on the above principle, with reference to your return of the expenses of the half-year ended 25th March last, is set out in the accompanying Schedule; and the Commissioners request that the Guardians will forthwith have Rates prepared for collection after Harvest, of an amount sufficient to admit of the repayment of the sums specified, and also to provide for existing debts, and the ordinary expenditure, (upon the best estimate that can be made,) down to the 25th March 1849, at least.

The Commissioners desire that you will immediately submit to the Board of Guardians the necessary estimate in one of the accompanying Forms; and having done so, you will transmit a copy thereof to this Office, by a separate letter, stating whether the requisite Rates were adopted.

By Order of the Commissioners,
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To the Clerk of the
_____ Union.

_____ Union.

Name of each Electoral Division.	Amount required by the Lords of the Treasury to be repaid after Harvest 1848, on account of the Advances from the Relief Commission in 1847.	Poundage.	Observations.
	£. s. d.	s. d.	

Union.

NAME OF EACH ELECTORAL DIVISION.	Balance, if any, which would be due by each Electoral Division on the 29th September next, on account of the estimated Expenditure to that date, after giving Credit for the Amount of the *present* Rate.	Estimated Expenditure from September to 25th March next.	Amount to be repaid after Harvest, on account of Advances from the Relief Commissioners.	Total of Cols. 2, 3 and 4, being the Amount of new Rate necessary to repay the Sum required by the Lords of the Treasury, and to provide for the ordinary Expenditure to the 25th March 1849.	*Deduct* from Col. 5. the Balance hereunder given, if any, which would remain to the Credit of each Electoral Division, on the 29th September next, over and above the estimated Expenditure to that date, after giving Credit for the Amount of the present Rate.	*Remainder*, being the Amount of Rate necessary in such Electoral Division, to repay the Sum required by the Lords of the Treasury, and to provide for the ordinary Expenditure to the 25th March 1849.	Amount per Pound of new Rate which will be required to cover existing Debts, and the Expenditure of each Division to 25th March 1849, and to repay the specified Sum to Government.	
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	

Signature of Clerk, _____

Date, _____

—2.—

No. /48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,

Sir, 1848.

With reference to the sums due on account of Advances made by the Relief Commissioners in 1847, on the credit of the Rates in Union, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland desire to acquaint the Guardians, that the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have been pleased to limit their demand for repayment after Harvest to a sum not exceeding the difference between the amount of the expenses of the half-year ended 25th March last, and the amount of 3 *s.* in the pound; but if the repayment of this sum, in addition to providing for the ordinary expenditure to the 25th March next, would require a Rate of more than 3 *s.* in the pound, the Commissioners will only insist on the repayment of so much as a Total Rate of 3 *s.* in the pound, for both purposes, will admit of.

The following rules, therefore, will determine the amount to be repaid :—

1. Find the sum of money which is the difference between 3 *s.* in the pound and the amount of Poor Law Expenses actually incurred in the half-year ended 25th March last.

2. Find the sum required for the ordinary Poor Law Expenditure to 25th March next.

3. Add together these two sums.

4. If these two sums do not, together, exceed 3 *s.* in the pound, the whole of the first sum, (viz., the difference between a 3 *s.* Rate and the amount of Poor Law Expenses actually incurred from last Michaelmas to last Lady-day), is to be repaid after Harvest, if so much is due on account of the Advances.

5. But if the two sums together exceed 3 *s.* in the pound, the repayment which the Electoral Division will be called upon to make will be diminished by a sum equal to such excess.

6. In those Electoral Divisions in which the sum necessary for Poor Law Expenditure to the 25th March 1849, shall, in itself, require a Rate of 3 *s.* or upwards, no addition is at present to be made for repayment of the Government Loan.

The Commissioners request that Rates may be decided upon forthwith, so as to admit of the repayment required, and that you will send up a list showing the amount thereof in one of the enclosed Forms.

By order of the Commissioners,

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To the Clerk of the
——————— Union.

—3.—

No. 20 M/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,

Sir, 5th January 1849.

The Commissioners for administering the Laws of Relief of the Poor in Ireland desire to call the immediate attention of the Guardians of ——————— Union to the repayment of the sum demanded, at the present time, by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury from each Electoral Division of the Union, on account of the Advances made by the Relief Commissioners in 1847, on the credit of the Rates.

The sum to be repaid by each Electoral Division is specified in the accompanying Schedule, a copy of which was forwarded to the Guardians in ——————— last, with a letter, a copy of which is also enclosed.

It is to be distinctly understood, that repayment will be required to be made forthwith on account of each Electoral Division, if the repayment would not render it necessary that a Rate exceeding 3 *s.* in the pound, including provision for the ordinary expenditure, should be levied during the half-year ending 25th March 1849.

The Commissioners therefore request that the Guardians will, at their next meeting, and at each succeeding meeting, direct repayment to be made to the extent which the balance in the Treasurer's hands will admit of, until the entire amount is repaid.

The money is to be transmitted to the Paymater of Civil Services in Dublin.

By Order of the Commissioners,

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To the Clerk of the
——————— Union.

Union.

Name of each Electoral Division.	Amount required by the Lords of the Treasury to be repaid after Harvest 1848, on account of the Advances from the Relief Commission in 1847.	Poundage.	Observations.
	£. s. d.	s. d.	

—4.—

No. 27, M 49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
8th January 1849.

Sir,

The Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland desire to bring under the immediate consideration of the Guardians of Union, the repayment of the Advances made by the Relief Commissioners in 1847, under 10 Vic. c. 7, to the extent now required, in pursuance of directions from the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

The Amount to be repaid, at present, by each Electoral Division, is the difference between 3*s.* in the pound, and the amount of the expenses actually incurred from 29th September 1847, to 25th March 1848, if such difference is due to the Treasury, and if the repayment thereof would not render it necessary to levy an amount of Rate exceeding 3*s.* in the pound during the current half-year, ending 25th March next, including provision for the ordinary expenditure to that date.

The Commissioners particularly request, that the Guardians will ascertain how much of the money in the Treasurer's hands, can be paid over forthwith to the Paymaster of Civil Services in Dublin, and that they will order payment to be made accordingly, and that they will take measures by enforcing the collection of the Rates, to secure the due repayment of the remainder of the amount now demanded, in compliance with the requirements of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

By Order of the Commissioners,

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To the Clerk of the Union.

Appendix B.

AREA, POPULATION, AND NET ANNUAL VALUE OF THE FOUR PROVINCES IN IRELAND.

ULSTER.

NAME OF UNION.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1841.	Net Annual Value of the Property Rated.
			£.
Antrim	116,342	49,168	100,667
Armagh	154,281	110,408	175,999
Bailieborough	88,331	49,385	52,027
Ballycastle	102,530	26,020	39,150
Ballymena	161,326	74,022	97,403
Ballymoney	127,057	48,812	73,042
Ballyshannon	137,024	43,403	51,435
Banbridge	124,806	87,323	123,712
Belfast	47,702	100,992	261,242
Carrickmacross	60,459	39,729	46,325
Castleblaney	93,504	58,945	65,470
Castlederg	91,758	21,368	21,761
Cavan	178,723	97,271	125,490
Clogher	101,203	39,801	42,291
Clones	72,185	42,320	55,105
Coleraine	112,176	52,704	76,897
Cookstown	96,730	46,455	56,605
Cootehill	106,385	67,178	82,845
Donegal	156,890	41,371	32,073
Downpatrick	147,367	74,938	167,582
Dunfanaghy	128,220	18,571	10,657
Dungannon	102,474	70,000	90,035
Enniskillen	231,961	81,534	97,359
Glenties	260,525	43,571	16,344
Gortin	111,248	18,747	15,763
Inishowen	159,323	43,569	36,928
Kilkeel	81,726	28,638	36,770
Larne	117,733	38,758	66,629
Letterkenny	101,997	25,921	31,808
Lisburn	119,300	75,444	134,368
Londonderry	139,199	64,740	109,414
Lowtherstown	75,783	34,963	39,793
Lurgan	80,120	71,128	92,281
Magherafelt	155,847	80,816	75,188
Milford	112,748	38,108	31,373
Monaghan	112,043	69,559	94,535
Newry	137,911	95,541	134,086
Newtownards	93,924	60,165	118,483
Newtownlimavady	150,623	39,058	65,560
Omagh	174,603	69,099	75,378
Strabane	134,209	58,883	81,828
Stranorlar	121,556	25,786	29,422
Total	5,179,852	2,324,212	3,231,123
Average	123,330	55,339	76,932

LEINSTER.

NAME OF UNION.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1841.	Net Annual Value of the Property Rated.
			£.
Abbeyleix	113,653	41,230	67,232
Ardee	95,034	43,348	93,134
Athy	175,795	47,912	102,992
Balrothery	76,988	28,116	90,702
Baltinglass	143,935	40,687	91,787
Callan	108,718	38,524	84,456
Carlow	180,186	78,086	176,384
Celbridge	85,400	25,242	130,233
Drogheda	101,042	52,251	129,444
Dublin, North	38,917	123,128	384,550
Dublin, South	44,474	178,745	563,954
Dundalk	104,372	65,509	102,655
Dunshauglin	109,096	20,985	118,077
Edenderry	140,396	34,679	98,932
Enniscorthy	192,124	61,652	126,797
Gorey	121,585	39,054	93,658
Granard	138,907	55,130	90,040
Kells	114,520	45,282	124,194
Kilkenny	275,824	120,082	242,002
Longford	208,625	87,757	124,496
Mountmelick	220,968	67,874	90,044
Mullingar	251,054	73,272	189,561
Naas	199,335	52,228	134,671
Navan	93,327	35,831	111,135
New Ross	186,596	74,923	109,816
Oldcastle	108,568	48,373	79,841
Parsonstown	150,140	76,528	107,123
Rathdown	51,154	44,214	173,937
Rathdrum	207,358	56,709	154,407
Shillelagh	58,577	34,800	64,204
Trim	113,529	34,411	100,930
Tullamore	158,477	53,905	86,339
Waterford	146,467	84,360	199,341
Wexford	112,245	53,401	113,740
Total	4,627,386	2,018,228	4,750,808
Average	136,100	59,360	139,730

MUNSTER.

MUNSTER.

NAME OF UNION.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1841.	Net Annual Value of the Property Rated.
			£.
Bandon	143,460	81,772	136,078
Bantry	137,256	56,165	41,725
Cahirciveen	146,296	30,888	27,699
Carrick-on-Suir	105,543	45,333	89,957
Cashel	144,078	69,640	130,782
Clogheen	73,113	47,033	62,506
Clonmel	89,958	39,993	91,037
Cork	142,688	156,657	372,383
Dungarvon	163,826	68,642	93,719
Dunmanway	89,802	30,527	43,488
Ennis	143,339	77,840	100,899
Ennistymon	152,609	49,935	67,486
Fermoy	195,316	92,353	154,788
Kanturk	247,049	85,561	106,538
Kenmare	271,245	33,656	24,862
Killarney	249,690	53,345	85,581
Kilmallock	151,179	75,687	176,717
Kilrush	115,746	82,353	58,867
Kinsale	77,770	41,342	74,043
Limerick	124,130	132,067	212,905
Lismore	95,397	38,617	64,460
Lisnaskea	98,147	37,920	46,919
Listowel	209,261	78,756	95,457
Macroom	194,981	58,818	93,863
Mallow	156,285	63,282	143,019
Midleton	145,683	78,428	163,144
Nenagh	174,360	89,874	136,587
Newcastle	132,895	60,007	113,215
Rathkeale	108,340	68,174	127,160
Roscrea	155,374	63,016	102,178
Scariff	108,762	53,563	44,970
Skibbereen	236,398	104,508	97,923
Thurles	125,139	71,976	110,998
Tipperary	185,561	79,516	148,725
Tralee	350,722	91,663	113,575
TOTAL	5,441,398	2,388,907	3,764,253
AVERAGE	155,469	68,254	107,550

CONNAUGHT.

NAME OF UNION.	Area in Statute Acres.	Population in 1841.	Net Annual Value of the Property Rated.
			£.
Athlone	199,109	72,168	109,056
Ballina	507,154	120,787	96,236
Ballinasloe	126,944	99,026	154,399
Ballinrobe	190,635	85,031	85,217
Boyle	181,293	71,355	81,227
Carrick-on-Shannon	132,516	67,077	61,450
Castlebar	148,477	61,063	50,932
Castlerea	239,565	92,864	114,349
Clifden	191,426	33,465	20,342
Galway	167,814	88,973	101,831
Gort	89,828	43,543	53,067
Loughrea	126,095	71,774	91,149
Manorhamilton	157,159	45,990	47,284
Mohill	137,768	68,859	57,777
Roscommon	176,775	83,437	86,666
Sligo	254,995	111,054	144,047
Swineford	133,026	73,529	45,966
Tuam	135,233	74,974	86,236
Westport	341,117	77,952	38,875
TOTAL	3,636,929	1,442,921	1,526,106
AVERAGE	191,417	75,943	80,321

APPENDIX C.

SCARIFF UNION.

ESTIMATE ON WHICH THE RATE OF 7*s.* 6*d.* IN THE POUND ON EACH ELECTORAL DIVISION OF SCARIFF UNION WAS FOUNDED.

TABLE, No. 1.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE up to the 25th March 1848.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Amount of Debt on 25 March 1847.	Estimate to 29 September 1847.	Estimate for In-maintenance only, to 25 March 1848.	Estimate for Out-door Relief for Half-year ending 25 March 1848, being *Half* the Amount expended in Four Months, under Act 10 Vict. c. 7.	Temporary Fever Hospitals.	Establishment and all other Charges.	TOTAL.	Amount deficient to meet the Expenses up to 25 March 1848, after collecting the 7*s.* 6*d.* Rate, being the Difference between Column 8, Table No. 1, and Column 11, Table No. 2.	Amount of Poundage of additional Rate to provide the Sum in Column 9.	Poundage to meet the estimated Expenses in Column 8.	REMARKS.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	
	£. s. d.	£ s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.			
1. Scariff	649 5 10	435 3 4½	460 2 4	1,569 – –	– – –	297 12 –	3,411 3 6½	1,413 3 6½	5 –	12 6	Killaloe and Tulla are the only Electoral Divisions in which a 7/6 rate is adequate to meet the estimated expenditure.
2. Clonrush	206 – 11¾	219 4 11	235 7 6	564 – –	– – –	117 14 –	1,342 7 4¾	606 7 4¾	5 6	13 –	
3. Feakle	579 13 2½	365 4 6½	387 5 4	1,568 10 –	260 – –	334 1 –	3,494 14 1	1,194 14 1	3 9	11 3	
4. Killaloe	249 5 3½	284 3 8¾	300 4 8¾	1,000 10 –	260 – –	360 18 –	2,455 1 9	38 1 9	– –	7 6	
5. Killuran	141 2 7¾	152 7 11½	174 6 2	559 – –	– – –	128 10 –	1,155 6 9¼	283 6 9¼	2 3	9 9	
6. Kilnoe	285 1 10	250 14 6	267 13 4	869 10 –	– – –	230 1 –	1,903 – 8	353 – 8	1 9	9 3	
7. Mount Shannon	166 16 10½	165 12 4	189 10 2	444 10 –	– – –	76 12 –	1,043 1 4½	524 1 4½	7 –	14 6	
8. O'Gonnelloe	159 9 1¾	145 5 6	170 3 4	552 – –	– – –	144 1 –	1,170 18 11¾	176 18 11¾	1 3	8 9	
9. Tulla	720 10 11¾	479 7 11	520 10 2	833 – –	260 – –	495 10 –	3,308 19 –¼	12 19 –¼	– –	7 6	
10. Woodford	179 3 5¼	170 4 5	195 18 6	533 – –	– – –	62 16 –	1,141 – 4¼	720 – 4¼	12 –	19 6	
TOTAL £.	3,336 10 2¼	2,667 9 2¼	2,901 1 6¾	8,493 – –	780 – –	2,247 15 –	20,425 13 11¼	5,322 13 11¼			

TABLE, No. 2.

ELECTORAL DIVISIONS.	Old Valuation (Sampson's).	New Valuation (Wilson's).	Arrear of a 10*d.* Rate struck on the 8th Sept. 1846.	Amount of a 10*d.* Rate struck on the 19th Jan. 1847, on the *Old* Valuation.	Amount of Rates struck on the 19th Oct. 1847, on the *New* Valuation.	Poundage of Rate in Column 6.	Poundage if Rate had been struck on *Old* Valuation.	TOTAL of Columns 4, 5 & 6.	*Gross* Amount of a 7*s.* 6*d.* Rate struck by the Vice-Guardians on the *Old* Valuation, including Arrears in Column 4.	*Net* Amount of Column 10, being the Sum which it is expected will be available to meet Expenditure in Column 8, Table No. 1.	Poundage of the *Two* Rates struck by the late Board, and amalgamated.	Difference of Poundage of Rates struck by the late Board, and by the Vice-Guardians.
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
1. Scariff	5,952 2 –	7,307 – –	64 12 8⅛	248 – 1	1,398 3 10	3 10	4 9	1,710 16 7¼	2,296 8 7	1,998 – –	5 7	1 11
2. Clonrush	2,354 6 –	3,053 10 –	22 19 8¾	98 1 11	572 10 7½	3 9	5 –	693 12 3½	853 11 5¾	736 – –	5 10	1 8
3. Feakle	6,681 14 –	8,005 – –	128 6 10	278 8 1	1,500 18 9	3 9	4 6	1,907 13 8	2,633 19 7	2,300 – –	5 4	2 2
4. Killaloe	7,218 15 –	9,699 – –	102 5 8	300 15 7½	1,725 8 3	3 6	5 –	2,128 9 6½	2,778 2 8	2,417 – –	5 10	1 8
5. Killuran	2,570 16 –	3,464 10 –	37 12 4½	107 2 4	750 12 10	4 4	6 –	895 7 6½	1,001 13 4½	873 – –	6 10	– 8
6. Kilnoe	4,601 10 –	5,636 10 –	54 7 4½	191 14 7	1,051 4 4½	3 9	4 7	1,297 6 4	1,779 18 7⅜	1,550 – –	5 5	2 1
7. Mount Shannon	1,532 11 –	2,137 – –	19 15 6½	63 17 1½	373 19 6	3 6	5 –	457 12 2	595 18 8¾	519 – –	5 10	1 8
8. O'Gonnelloe	2,881 12 –	3,296 10 –	58 4 1	120 1 4	673 – 8½	4 1	4 9	851 6 1½	1,138 13 1	994 – –	5 7	1 11
9. Tulla	9,910 6 3	11,553 3 10	76 3 –½	412 18 7½	2,021 17 3	3 6	4 3	2,510 18 11	3,791 9 5¾	3,296 – –	5 1	2 5
10. Woodford	1,256 15 –	2,400 – –	12 11 3	52 7 3½	360 – –	3 –	6 –	424 18 6½	483 16 10½	421 – –	6 10	– 8
TOTAL £.	44,960 7 3	56,552 3 10	576 18 7¼	1,873 7 –	10,427 16 1½	– –	– –	12,878 1 9	17,353 12 5¾	15,104 – –		

25 February 1849.

H. G. Hart, Major 49th Regiment, Poor Law Inspector.

CORRESPONDENCE with Commissioners, Vice-Guardians, Contractors, &c. regarding CHANGE of TREASURER.

(Confidential.)

Gentlemen, Scariff Union, 15 April 1848.

I WISH to call your attention confidentially to a subject of some importance in the present financial state of the Union.

The present Treasurer of the Union is so situated locally as to put the Vice-guardians to much inconvenience in communicating with him, and both lodging and receiving money is attended with delay and difficulty.

Added to this, the Provincial Bank Managers have general instructions, as I understand, not on any account to allow of any overdraft for the smallest amount; and so rigidly is the Manager at Ennis inclined to enforce those orders, that last week he refused two cheques of ours for 30 *l.* and 36 *l.*, although he had half notes at the time in his hands, and had reason to expect further remittances immediately. The refusal of these cheques, without any explanation, must necessarily have an injurious effect on our credit.

It is my wish, as well as that of Captain Hart, that the Commissioners should authorize the appointment of the National Bank in Limerick as the Treasurer, by which much trouble would be saved to us, and a great accommodation afforded to the Union, as not only is there a direct post from Scariff and from all parts of the Union to Limerick, but the facility of going there from most parts of the Union is greater than of going to Ennis, while the post from Scariff and from all the other post towns in the Union to Ennis is by an indirect and circuitous route.

By having the Treasurer in Limerick, the Vice-guardians would be able to make many arrangements, and frequently to obtain accommodation and advances, which they are now unable to get from want of personal interviews with the Treasurer, and from the circumstance that the Provincial Bank is well known to be much less accommodating in every respect than the National Bank.

Another important object is to procure silver for the payment of out-relief in small sums. The expense and difficulty of sending to Ennis is very great, besides the delay and irregularity occasioned by the Relieving Officers not being able to pay out the relief on the day appointed, when silver cannot be easily procured. If the Treasurer were in Limerick, silver could be readily and regularly procured, and with much less risk than from Ennis.

On these grounds, we would respectfully beg that the Commissioners will remove the present Treasurer, and appoint the Manager of the National Bank of Limerick in his place.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, &c. *J. J. Fisher.*

No. 21,131/48. Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
Sir, 20 April 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c. to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, dated the 15th instant, and marked "Confidential," in which you request, on the grounds set forth in your letter, that the Commissioners will remove the present Treasurer of Scariff Union, and appoint the Manager of the National Bank at Limerick in his place.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that they are not aware of any objection to the change of Treasurer proposed; but they deem it advisable that you should record on your minutes a statement of the grounds on which you consider it desirable that the Manager of the National Bank at Limerick should be Treasurer, rather than the Manager of the Provincial Bank at Ennis.

The Commissioners presume you have not yet received the decision of the Provincial Bank on your application for a loan.

By Order, &c.

To J. J. Fisher, Esq., Vice-guardian, Scariff. *W. Stanley,* Secretary.

EXTRACT from MINUTES of 20th April 1848.

MUCH inconvenience having been experienced in the lodging and receiving of money with and from the Treasurer, owing to the want of direct communication with Ennis, and the Provincial Bank of Ireland not being disposed to allow reasonable accommodation from week to week to the Vice-guardians, having refused to pay their cheques last week for 30 *l.* and 36 *l.*, when presented, although the manager had half notes in his hands from the collectors of the Union to more than that amount at the time; and as the refusal of these cheques without explanation was injurious to our credit, and uncalled for, at a time when the manager was receiving daily remittances from the collectors, and had already received from them on the present collection about 11,000 *l.*; it is recommended by the Vice-guardians, that the Commissioners should remove the manager of the Provincial Bank of

Ireland from the office of Treasurer, and that the manager of the National Bank of Ireland, at Limerick, be appointed to the office, for the following reasons:

Because the means of communication with Limerick are direct and frequent, not only from Scariff, but from all parts of the Union.

Because a great difficulty has been found frequently in obtaining silver, or sometimes any exchange for a cheque on Ennis by the relieving officers, while a cheque in Limerick could be readily exchanged, and silver can be conveyed from Limerick to Scariff with less risk, expense and difficulty than from Ennis.

Because the National Bank is generally more accommodating in making advances on reasonable security than the Provincial Bank, and it will be much more convenient to the Vice-guardians to make communications and arrangements with the Treasurer in Limerick than in Ennis.

No. 22,272/48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
1 May 1848.

Sir,

The Commissioners, &c. have had under consideration the resolution contained in minute of proceedings of the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union on the 20th ultimo, in which the Guardians set forth the inconvenience which they experience from having their Treasurer at Ennis, and state that they are desirous, on this and other grounds, that the present Treasurer should be removed, and the Manager of the National Bank at Limerick appointed in his place. In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that under the circumstances stated by the Vice-guardians in their resolution, the Commissioners will not object to their appointing the Manager of the National Bank at Limerick as their Treasurer.

By Order, &c.

The Clerk,
Scariff Union.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Limerick, 11 November 1848.

Sir,

I beg leave to call your attention to the conduct pursued by the Vice-guardians of the Scariff Union towards me. On the 4th of May a cheque was filled for 308*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* for their contractor, Mr. Wallnutt (who got his supplies from me). Mr. Wallnutt gave me an order for the cheque, and on the 22d of June one-half the cheque was given to me; some time in September the second half was given to me, and on forwarding it, I was informed that the Provincial Bank in Ennis (on whom the cheque was drawn) were no longer the Treasurers. I sent a messenger to Scariff to see the Vice-guardians on the subject, when I learned that so long since as April last, as appeared by the Minutes of the Board, the Provincial Bank of Ireland at Ennis had been discontinued as Treasurers, and the National Bank in Limerick appointed in their stead. I urged the Guardians to change the cheque given to me for one upon their real Treasurers, which they refused doing, and, after six months' delay, I find that I have been defrauded by a sham and useless document. As the Commissioners would, I believe, dissolve an unpaid Board for conduct far less discreditable, I take the liberty of calling on them to enforce straightforward conduct on the part of their paid officers, and who are under their immediate control. I beg leave further to add, for the information of the Commissioners, that until the Scariff Vice-guardians improve their credit, that no merchant in this country will make tenders or have any further transactions with them.

I am, &c.
Pro *Francis Spaight*,
William Spaight.

The Secretary Poor Law Commissioners,
Custom-house, Dublin.

The half cheque was given to me in June for the purpose of allowing the Vice-guardians more time for the payment of the money, while I held some kind of security; the cheque was drawn in payment of a contract prior to the 25th of March.

W. S. for *F. S.*

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
14 November 1848.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to forward to you, to be laid before the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union, the enclosed copy of a letter which they have received from Mr. Spaight, complaining that the Vice-guardians had given a cheque to one of their contractors on a bank which was not the Union Treasurer; and I am to request, that the Vice-guardians will be so good as to favour the Commissioners with their observations on the subject.

By Order, &c.

The Clerk of the
Scariff Union.

A. M., for Secretary.

Sir,

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
Sir, 14 November 1848.

I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, and I am to state that the subject of your communication will receive the Commissioners' attention.

I have, &c.

To Francis Spaight, Esq., &c.
Limerick.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

No. 62,600/48.

Gentlemen, Scariff, 16 November 1848.

The Clerk of the Union has handed us your letter, under date 14th November instant, enclosing a letter from Mr. Spaight, addressed to you, and requiring our observations thereon. In reply, we have to state for your information, that every word Mr. Spaight advances is perfectly true. He holds a cheque on the Provincial Bank in Ennis, dated in May 1848, signed by the Vice-guardians in charge of this Union at that time; and we refer you to the Minutes of the 21st April 1848 for the resolution rescinding the appointment of the Provincial Bank in Ennis, and appointing the National Bank in Limerick in its stead. Several cheques, however, appear to have been drawn on the former since that resolution, even so lately as the 5th October ult., a great number of which have been dishonoured. We beg to refer you to the Vice-guardians who signed the cheque in question for their explanation, who no doubt will be able to satisfy you; but we feel that the only part of the transaction with which we have to deal is our refusal to replace the cheque.

In reply to this part of the charge, we have the honour to state for your information, that Mr. Spaight came to our board-room on the 11th instant, and handing us the cheque, pressed that we should replace it; this we firmly, but courteously, declined to do, stating that there were no funds in the National Bank in Limerick to meet the cheque if presented, and that while in charge of the Scariff Union we would not be parties to signing a cheque which could not be met with provision; at the same time we stated that this debt, with others under similar circumstances, would now be treated by us among the old debts and liabilities of the Union; that we purposed making arrangements to pay them off by instalments, giving him to understand that 6 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound would be the first instalment, and that we would not go to the right hand or the left, but deal with all our creditors alike. At the time he appeared satisfied with our terms, but expressed his astonishment in no very measured language at the treatment he had received from the Vice-guardians of the day. We do not wish to enter into transactions of this nature incurred by our predecessors, who, as we have said before, will be able to explain their own acts, but we trust that this explanation of the matter, as far as relates to ourselves, will be deemed satisfactory.

We shall finish with a short notice of the concluding paragraph of Mr. Spaight's letter. We feel that we are not injuring the credit of the Union by a steady refusal to draw cheques only to be dishonoured, and our anxious thoughts and endeavours are constantly directed to improve the financial as well as the social condition of the Scariff Union.

We have, &c.

James F. Rolleston.
Horatio N. Wallace.

To the Commissioners for administering the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland.

No. 61,621/48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
Gentlemen, 28 November 1848.

The Commissioners, &c. have had before them your letter of the 16th instant, in explanation of the circumstances under which the cheque which Mr. Spaight holds from the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union was dishonoured by the Provincial Bank at Ennis; and I am directed by the Commissioners to state, that the only course open to the Vice-guardians appears to be, to rescind the order appointing the National Bank at Limerick the Treasurer of the Union, and to re-instate the Provincial Bank at Ennis in the office of Treasurer; and I am to request, that you will be so good as to state if you have any objection to the Commissioners adopting such a course. No. 62,600.

By Order, &c.

The Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

No. 62,600/48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
20 November 1848.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to inform you, that the Commissioners have received a communication from Mr. Spaight, of Limerick, in which he states that on the 4th May last a cheque was filed by the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union for 308 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d.*, in favour of Mr. Wallnut, one of their contractors, who subsequently gave Mr. Spaight an order for the cheque in question; and that on presenting it for payment to the Provincial Bank in Ennis, on whom it was drawn, it was dishonoured, that Bank having ceased to be the Union Treasurer.

On inquiry, the Commissioners find that, on the 21st April the Vice-guardians rescinded the appointment of the Provincial Bank in Ennis as Treasurer of Scariff Union, and appointed the National Bank in Limerick in its stead; and that, subsequently, the Vice-guardians drew cheques in other cases, as well as in that of Mr. Spaight, on the Provincial Bank in Ennis; and I am to request that you will be so good as to favour the Commissioners with an explanation of the circumstances under which cheques were drawn on a banker who had ceased to be the Union Treasurer, and with whom, therefore, the Commissioners presume there were no funds.

I have, &c.

J. J. Fisher, Esq.,
Vice-guardian, Kanturk.

A. M., for Secretary.

No. 63,705/48.

Sir,

Kanturk, 22 November 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 20th instant, No. 62,600/48.

In reply, I have to state that the facts as to the cheque of the 4th May last, in favour of Mr. Wallnut, are nearly as Mr. Spaight states, but that he is in error as to the Provincial Bank of Ennis having ceased practically to be the Union Treasurer for such sums as were received by the collectors of the rate.

Not having an opportunity now of referring to the Minute-book of the Board of Vice-guardians of Scariff Union, I can only state the circumstances relative to the proposed change of the Treasurer from recollection.

I think it will be found that an application was made by the Vice-guardians for permission to rescind the appointment of the Provincial Bank of Ennis, and to appoint the National Bank of Limerick as Treasurer; and resolutions were entered in the Minute-book, stating the reasons for the proposed change.

However, after the Commissioners' consent was obtained, no further steps were taken in the matter by the Vice-guardians, because at the time the Treasurer's account was overdrawn, and owing to the constant pressure for funds, it continued to be so, as long as I remained in the Union; but the weekly collection of rate continued to be lodged at the Provincial Bank of Ennis, and the Vice-guardians' cheques on that Bank continued to be paid, as far as funds were lodged, up to the first week of October, when I last signed the Treasurer's accounts.

During this time, we also made use of the National Bank of Limerick as Treasurer, for the funds received from the British Association and from Government, for such part of the in-door and out-door relief as we could not obtain without making cash payments. The cheques on the Provincial Bank were only issued at the request of such parties as were willing to take them, and give receipts for the amount, with the knowledge that they could not be paid immediately, but only according as the rate was collected and lodged; but with the understanding that the rates collected should be lodged with the Provincial Bank in Ennis, until all the outstanding cheques were paid.

This arrangement I found absolutely necessary in order to carry on the affairs of the Union, and if it could still be carried out in the manner I proposed to Mr. Wallace on my leaving Scariff, I have no doubt it would tend to ultimate advantage, as a breach of faith with contractors in the end enhances difficulties, as it prevents further credit from being obtained.

I have, &c.

To the Secretary of the
Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin.

J. J. Fisher.

No.

No. 63,805/48.

Sir, Listowel, 22 November 1848.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th instant, on the subject of a cheque amounting to 308*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*, drawn by the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, and which appears to have been dishonoured; and I beg to state, in reply, that the only lodgments made with the National Bank at Limerick were the sums received by me weekly from Sir Randolph Routh in aid of the rates; and that nearly 3,000*l.* were paid into the Provincial Bank at Ennis (as per annexed statement of particulars) subsequently to the date on which the cheque in question was drawn.

It was deemed necessary to keep the receipts from the two above-mentioned sources quite distinct, to prevent the embarrassment occasioned by the creditors of the late Board always clamouring for payment of sums due to them, whenever they learnt, as they always did, of there being a balance in the Vice-guardians' favour in the Bank at Ennis. Accordingly, as poor-rates were lodged with the Bank at Ennis, cheques were issued in liquidation of pressing claims; but the creditors were clearly informed that the Vice-guardians could not draw upon the funds standing to their credit in the Bank at Limerick without my sanction, as they were granted to the Union for the express purpose of paying weekly expenses, and not for the liquidation of debts.

Mr. Fisher, who kept the banking account, can without doubt furnish a satisfactory explanation with reference to the cheque for 308*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.*

I have, &c.

W. Stanley, Esq.,
Secretary to the Poor Law Commissioners,
&c. &c. &c.

H. G. Hart,
Capt. 49th Regiment,
Poor Law Inspector.

AMOUNT of WEEKLY COLLECTION of POOR RATES subsequent to 4th May 1848 (as per Letters of Advice to me from the Collectors), and paid into the Provincial Bank at *Ennis.*

WEEK ENDING	AMOUNT.	WEEK ENDING	AMOUNT.
7 May 1848	£. 96 – –	30 July 1848	£. 191 12 6
14 May „	199 – –	6 Aug. „	105 9 4
21 May „	196 10 8	13 Aug. „	164 16 6
28 May „	175 – 6	20 Aug. „	88 18 4
4 June „	161 5 –	27 Aug. „	98 10 –
11 June „	254 3 9	3 Sept. „	44 1 6
18 June „	120 12 –	10 Sept. „	51 4 –
25 June „	82 – –	17 Sept. „	61 8 7
2 July „	83 – –	24 Sept. „	68 16 –
9 July „	59 1 –	29 Sept. „	88 12 6
16 July „	117 14 2		
23 July „	119 12 8		£. 2,627 9 –

22 November 1848.

H. G. Hart,
Capt. 49th Regiment,
Poor Law Inspector.

Gentlemen, Scariff, 19 November 1848.

OUR collection, as per margin, during the past week, may appear small to you, but the total does not show the amount actually collected, as the rate-collectors have made lodgments during the week, which are not before us in such a form as to enable us to report the amount. The collector for Killaloe has got nearly 500*l.* not yet accounted for, the produce of three days' collection.

	£.
Scariff - -	100
Feakle - -	154
Mount Shannon -	14
Clonrush - -	50
Ogonellor - -	59
	£. 377

* * * * * *

You will observe by the minutes of the last week's proceedings, the course we mean to pursue for a settlement of our old debts, and we hope it may meet with your approbation.

We have the honour to enclose herewith a letter we have received from Mr. Usborne, of Limerick, formally accepting our terms, and we expect that all the other creditors will follow his example. We have to report that Dr. Williams has typhus fever, and that Dr. Dobson is slowly recovering. It will be some time before he can resume his duties.

We have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, &c.

James F. Rolleston.
Horatio N. Wallace.

Gentlemen,

Limerick, 15 November 1848.

You are aware of the nature of my heavy claim upon the Union; that most of the debt was incurred by the late Vice-guardians purchasing for cash.

I am willing to conform to the mode of payment you propose, that is, 6 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound out of present rate, as an instalment, provided no preference is given to any other creditors. Now, should any preference be given to any other claimant, I will sue for execution, and I believe many creditors will do the same.

Your, &c.

To the Vice-guardians of the Scariff Union.

Thos. M. Usborne.

No. 63,055/48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, 20 November 1848.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Commissioners, &c. to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your report of the 19th instant, relating to the Scariff Union.

* * * * * *

By Order,

The Vice-guardians of the Scariff Union.

A. M., for Secretary.

Gentlemen,

Limerick, 23 November 1848.

We beg to annex copy of a letter we wrote to the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union, on the 10th instant, to which we have had no reply, and to enclose a letter just received from the Manager of the Provincial Bank at Ennis, which confirms the report we had heard that the present collection was paying into the National Bank at Limerick. Holding two cheques of the Scariff Vice-guardians for 299 *l.* on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, where they have no funds, may we request you will instruct these gentlemen to exchange them for cheques on the National Bank at Limerick, as we cannot suppose you would sanction their changing the Bank for lodgment, to avoid paying the cheques issued; our goods were given in June and 1st July, the greater part on the written assurance of one of the Vice-guardians that we should be paid in three or four weeks from 29th June.

We, are, &c.

The Poor Law Commissioners for Ireland, Custom-house, Dublin.

Harvey, Brothers.

Gentlemen,

Limerick, 10 November 1848.

We are informed that your collectors are busy collecting a new rate, and lodging the money to your credit with the National Bank at Limerick, and that in consequence there appears no present prospect of your cheques on the Provincial Bank at Ennis being paid: we hold two cheques on this latter Bank, 299 *l.*, as stated in our letter of 6th instant, and shall feel obliged by your informing us when we may expect our money, and whether, if it be true that the present collection is paying into the National Bank at Limerick, you will give us cheques on that Bank in exchange for those on the Provincial Bank at Ennis. Waiting your reply,

We remain, &c.

The Vice-guardians of the Scariff Union, Scariff.

Harvey, Brothers.

My

Provincial Bank of Ireland,
Ennis, 22 Nov. 1848.

My dear Sir,

I DULY received your letter of 11th, and the present is to acquaint you that I am not receiving any money from the collectors of the Scariff Union, which confirms my former statement, that they must be lodging their collections at National Bank, Limerick.

I am, &c.
James Menin,
Manager.

R. Harvey, Esq., Limerick.

I would strongly recommend you to withdraw the cheques from me, and look for payment to the Vice-guardians.

No. 63,890/48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
24 November 1848.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, and I am to state that the subject of your communication will receive the Commissioners' attention.

I have, &c.
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To Messrs. Harvey, Brothers,
Limerick.

Scariff, 25 November 1848.

Gentlemen,

WE beg to draw your attention to the letters which we have the honour to annex, being tenders to act as Treasurer to this Union. Mr. Reddan, living in Tomgrany, proposes to act for a salary of 100*l.* per annum; Mr. Digan, an extensive trader in Killaloe, proposes at 60*l.*; and the late Clerk of the Union, Mr. Martin Hennessy, also offers his services. The three parties are prepared to give unexceptionable security. We would not recommend that a salary higher than 40*l.* per annum should be given under our present difficulties. If you do not think that the circumstances which led to the resignation of Mr. Hennessy, as Clerk of this Union, preclude his appointment, we respectfully recommend his proposal for your sanction. He does not mention terms in his proposal; but he has intimated to us that he is prepared to accept 40*l.* as a remuneration for his services. Considering this subject, you will have to bear in mind that the balances in hands of the Treasurer at the close of each week are likely to be very small indeed.

We have much pleasure to inform you that we continue to receive the consent of our creditors to the proposal we have made on our last week's minutes, as to the payment of our liabilities up to the 29th September last; and we have already paid various sums on account of the dividend of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound; and we have also paid several cheques of the dissolved Board of Guardians, and sums under 20*l.* in full. We have the satisfaction, also, of thinking that we have in some measure retrieved the credit of the Union.

We have, &c.
James F. Rolleston.
Horatio N. Wallace.

To the Commissioners for administering
the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland.

Tomgrany, Scariff, 20 November 1848.

Gentlemen,

IN reply to your letter of 17th instant, I beg to inform you, that I am willing to undertake the duties of Treasurer to the Scariff Union, at a salary of 100*l.* per annum.

I have, &c.
Matt. Reddan.

To the Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

Killaloe, 25 November 1848.

Gentlemen,

I HEREBY propose to act as Treasurer to the Scariff Union for the sum of 60*l.* sterling per annum, and I beg to offer as my securities Michael Digan, Esq., and John Digan, Esq., both of Ballina, in the county of Tipperary, in the joint sum of 5,000*l.* sterling, or, if necessary, 10,000*l.* sterling.

I have, &c.
William Digan.

To the Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

 Gentlemen,

Gentlemen, Tomgrany, 19 November 1848.

As you purpose appointing a local Treasurer for this Union, I beg leave most respectfully to say that I will perform the duties; and should you be so kind as to honour me with the appointment, I flatter myself that I would perform the duties satisfactorily.

I propose as my securities Luke Brady, Esq., Brookville, Ennis, and Henry Spaight, Esq., Corbally, Quin, in the sum of 12,000 *l.* sterling.

I have, &c.

Horatio N. Wallace, Esq., and
J. F. Rolleston, Esq.
Vice-guardians.

M. Hennessy.

No. 64,260/48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
4 December 1848.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th ult., relative to the affairs of Scariff Union; and with reference to the appointment of Treasurer, I am to state, that the Commissioners deem it necessary to defer the consideration of the appointment of a Treasurer, who shall be resident in the Union, until the question regarding the suggested re-appointment of the Provincial Bank at Ennis shall be settled.

The Commissioners are happy to learn that such satisfactory progress is being made in the arrangement with the Union creditors.

By Order, &c.

To the Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Gentlemen, Scariff, 3 December 1848.

No. 61,621/48. WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, under date 28 November ultimo, having relation to Mr. Spaight's letter, and proposing that we should rescind the resolution appointing the National Bank in Limerick Treasurer of this Union, and that we should re-appoint the Provincial Bank in Ennis Treasurer as before. With respect to this proposal, we respectfully submit that the adoption of such a course would materially tend to embarrass our efforts to make arrangements to pay off our liabilities by instalments, according

No. 63,055/48. to the resolution which we enclose, in accordance with your wishes expressed in your letter.

A considerable number of cheques on the Provincial Bank in Ennis are now outstanding, which come under that resolution, and which would be poured in at once, when the holders would find that the Bank was in funds to pay them; we therefore beg that you will be pleased to allow us to carry out our arrangement, by continuing the National Bank as our Treasurer, until we receive your sanction to the proposed appointment of a Local Treasurer.

We have, &c.

To the Commissioners for administering
the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland.

James F. Rolleston.
Horatio N. Wallace.

Resolved,—That, taking into consideration the embarrassed state of the finances of this Union, we find that we cannot pay the liabilities of the Union up to the 29th September 1848, in full, out of the rate now in course of collection; we therefore deem it expedient, under the circumstances, to propose that the following mode of payment be adopted; namely, that all outstanding cheques issued by the late dissolved Board of Guardians shall be paid in full; that the collectors of the late rate shall be paid a dividend of 10*s.* in the pound in their certified collection; and that all other creditors not comprised in the above shall be paid a dividend of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound on their accounts.

No. 65,483/48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
11 December 1848.

Gentlemen,

THE Commissioners, &c. have had under their careful consideration that part of your report, dated the 3d instant, in which you state that the adoption of the course suggested in the Commissioners' letter of the 28th ultimo, namely, to rescind the order appointing the National

National Bank at Limerick the Treasurer of the Union, and to reinstate the Provincial Bank at Ennis in the office of Treasurer, would materially tend to embarrass your efforts to make arrangements to pay off the Union liabilities by instalments, as you have proposed.

The Commissioners are fully sensible of the difficulties of your position in regard to the cheques which have been drawn upon the Ennis Bank, and they much regret that cheques should, under any circumstances, have been given when there were no funds available to meet them. Still, as the cheques have been given, the Commissioners think that the Vice-guardians are bound to provide for their payment at the earliest possible period; and the Commissioners request, therefore, that the Vice-guardians will either re-appoint the Ennis Bank as Treasurer, until the outstanding cheques upon that Bank are discharged, or that they will make immediate arrangements for paying the cheques which are outstanding.

Whatever the difficulties may be which may be entailed upon the Vice-guardians by the adoption of this course, it appears to the Commissioners that there is no other course open to them which would be consistent with their public duty.

By Order, &c.

To the Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Gentlemen, Limerick, 2 December 1848.

We were duly favoured with your printed letter, No. 63,890, dated 24th ultimo, informing us that the subject of our letter of 23d should receive your attention, and we trust you will excuse us for reminding you that as yet we have received no redress. We cannot, as we said before, imagine you will countenance anything so disgraceful as paid Vice-guardians giving cheques on one Bank (where they have no funds), and lodging the rates levied in another. We gave our goods on the faith of the Vice-guardians' letter, and relied on getting payment in all in July last.

We are, &c.

The Commissioners for administering
the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland,
Custom-house, Dublin.

Harvey, Brothers.

No. 65,484/48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
7 December 1848.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, in which you refer to your previous communication respecting your claim upon the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union; and I am to state that the Commissioners are still in communication with the present Vice-guardians on the subject.

By Order, &c.

Harvey, Brothers,
Limerick.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Gentlemen, Scariff, 5 December 1848.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, under date 4th December instant, stating that "you defer the consideration of a Treasurer who shall be resident in the Union, until the question regarding the suggested appointment of the Provincial Bank at Ennis shall be settled." No. 64,260/48.

In reply to this, we beg to state, that we expressed very fully in the weekly report we had the honour to send you on the 3d instant, our reasons why the suggested appointment of the Provincial Bank at Ennis should not receive your sanction; we still respectfully beg leave to press our objections, and hope you will consider them valid, and such as to convince you that such a step would tend to increase our embarrassments; in fact, it would mar the progress being made in the arrangement with the Union creditors; add to this, that it would not improve our position, or relieve us from the inconvenience we complained of, arising from the distance at which the Treasurer resides from the Union; Ennis being 25 statute miles from Scariff, we have no other cause of complaint against the National Bank at Limerick.

We have, &c.

James F. Rolleston.
Horatio N. Wallace.

To the Commissioners for administering
the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland.

No. 65,953.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
11 December 1848.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c. to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your report of the 5th instant, relating to the Scariff Union.

With reference to that part of your report in which you detail your reasons for objecting to the appointment of the Provincial Bank as Treasurer, I am to state that the Commissioners have addressed a separate communication to you in reply to your previous report on this subject.

By Order, &c.
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

The Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

Gentlemen,

Scariff, 12 December 1848.

No. 65,483/48.

WE have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, under date 11th December instant, directing us to pay off the cheques on the Provincial Bank in Ennis, now outstanding. We bow with deference to your instructions, and we shall pay off those cheques according as funds are placed in our hands.

We beg to forward herewith, for your information, a list, giving the numbers, dates and amount of the same respectively, making a gross total of 2,231 *l.* 17 *s.* 4 *d.*; add to this a sum of about 200 *l.*, cheques of the dissolved Board, also outstanding. We think it right that we should be acquainted with all the information in our power to give you, as a justification for the pertinacity with which we at first opposed your wishes. We also beg to enclose a circular which we have forwarded to all our creditors.

We have, &c.
James F. Rolleston.
Horatio N. Wallace.

To the Commissioners for administering the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland.

CHEQUES on PROVINCIAL BANK, ENNIS, outstanding.

No.			£.	s.	d.
368	April - 22	S. Hallinan - - - -	4	17	11
393	May - 3	Charles Walnutt - - -	308	18	9
428	„ - 19	Charles Walnutt - - -	100	–	–
438	„ - 25	M. Toohy - - - -	55	2	2
449	„ - 31	Thomas Grubb - - -	200	–	–
452	„ - „	T. Sullivan - - - -	21	16	10
457	June - 8	T. Sullivan - - - -	50	–	–
458	„ - „	H. Sparling - - - -	100	–	–
481	July - 6	E. Beveridge - - - -	75	9	–
496	„ - 14	H. Sparling - - - -	50	–	–
500	„ - 22	M. Darcy - - - -	20	–	–
509	„ - 28	T. T. Fisher - - - -	62	10	–
510	„ - 29	H. Sparling - - - -	100	–	–
517	August - 2	T. Reddan - - - -	15	–	–
521	„ - „	Captain Tully - - - -	64	6	11
522	„ - 9	D. Flannery - - - -	8	16	4
529	„ - 17	T. Halpin - - - -	108	12	11
530	„ - „	P. O'Brien - - - -	24	10	11
535	October - 5	H. Sparling - - - -	52	10	–
536	„ - „	D. Flannery, jun. - - -	50	–	–
537	„ - „	H. Sparling - - - -	199	–	–
538	„ - „	John Sullivan - - - -	207	5	3
539	„ - „	James Harvey & Co. - -	136	8	4
540	„ - „	James Harvey & Co. - -	33	6	8
541	„ - „	H. Sykes & Co. - - -	158	15	4
542	„ - „	H. T. Sparling - - - -	24	10	–
		£.	2,231	17	4

Scariff Union Workhouse.

Sir, December 1848.

I am directed by the Vice-guardians of this Union to forward you a resolution on their minutes, and I am also directed to express their hope that you will accede to their terms under the present embarrassed circumstances of this Union.

I am, &c.
J. R. Cussen,
Clerk of the Union *pro tem.*

To

Resolved,—That on taking into consideration the embarrassed state of the finances of this Union, we find that we cannot pay the liabilities of the Union up to the 29th September 1848, in full, out of the rate now in course of collection; we therefore deem it expedient, under the circumstances, to propose that the following mode of payment be adopted,—namely, that all outstanding cheques issued by the late dissolved Board of Guardians, and all debts amounting to 20 *l.* and under shall be paid in full; that the collectors of the late rate shall be paid a dividend of 10 *s.* in the pound on their certified collection, and that all other creditors not comprised in the above shall be paid a dividend of 6 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound on their certified accounts; and it is also resolved, that the clerk shall be directed to write to each of the creditors who have furnished their accounts, to inform them of the course we thus propose to adopt, and that we shall be prepared to put their respective demands, on receipt of their consent in writing to this arrangement, into course of payment, according as the rate-collectors place funds in our hands.

James F. Rolleston,
Horatio N. Wallace,
Vice-guardians, Scariff Union.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
20 December 1848.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Commissioners, &c. to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your report of the 12th instant; and I am to state that the Commissioners do not doubt that you acted for the best in regard to the outstanding cheques drawn by the late Vice-guardians on the Provincial Bank at Ennis; and the Commissioners regret that the adoption of a contrary course is likely to embarrass you; but still, under all the circumstances of the case, the Commissioners conceive you are bound to provide for the immediate discharge of those cheques, which certainly ought not to have been given, when there were not funds to meet them.

The Commissioners have received letters from Messrs. Harvey, Brothers, who state that they hold two of the cheques in question, amounting to 299 *l.*, and strongly press for immediate payment.

By Order,
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
20 December 1848.

Sir,

No. 63,705.

I am directed by the Commissioners, &c. to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d instant, on the subject of the outstanding cheques drawn by the late Vice-guardians of Ennis Union on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, and in reference thereto, I am to state, that the Commissioners have been in communication with the Vice-guardians on the subject, and they now enclose for your information a copy of a letter which has been addressed to them thereon.

The Commissioners cannot avoid expressing their regret that the Vice-guardians should have adopted the irregular course of continuing an account with the Ennis Bank, after the appointment of that Bank as Treasurer had been rescinded, and especially that they should have drawn cheques on the Ennis Bank, at a time when there were no funds to meet them.

By Order,
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

J. J. Fisher, Esquire,
Kanturk.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
20 December 1848.

Sir,

No. 63,085. With reference to your letter of the 12th instant, relative to the outstanding cheques drawn by the late Vice-guardians of Scariff Union on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, I am directed by the Commissioners, &c. to state, that they have been in communication with the Vice-guardians on the subject, and they now enclose for your information a copy of a letter which has been addressed to them thereon.

The Commissioners cannot avoid expressing their regret that the Vice-guardians should have adopted the irregular course of continuing an account with the Ennis Bank, after the appointment of that Bank as Treasurer had been rescinded, and especially that they should have drawn cheques on the Ennis Bank at a time when there were no funds to meet them.

By Order,

Major Hart, P.L.I.,
Listowel.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
20 December 1848.

Gentlemen,

No. 63,890. Adverting to your letter of the 23d ultimo, relative to cheques which you hold from the late Vice-guardians of Scariff Union on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, I am directed by the Commissioners, &c. to inform you that the Vice-guardians are now making arrangements to discharge the cheques adverted to.

By Order,

Harvey, Brothers,
Limerick.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

No. 67,374/48.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
20 December 1848.

Sir,

No. 61,621. With reference to your letter of the 11th ultimo, relative to a cheque which you hold from the late Vice-guardians of Scariff Union on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, I am directed by the Commissioners, &c. to inform you, that the Vice-guardians are now making arrangements to discharge the cheque adverted to by you.

By Order,

Francis Spaight, Esq., &c.
Limerick.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Gentlemen,

Kanturk, 22 December 1848.

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 20th instant.

I beg respectfully to state, in vindication of my conduct as Vice-guardian of Scariff Union, that the appointment of the Ennis Bank as Treasurer to the Union had not been rescinded previous to my leaving Scariff in October last, and that the cheques drawn on that bank by myself and Mr. Wallace immediately previous to my removal were drawn *bonâ fide*, as far as I was concerned, and with the full belief that the collection now in progress would have been lodged in the Ennis Bank to meet the outstanding cheques, as the collection of the last rate continued to be up to the time of my removal from Scariff.

I beg also to state, that the National Bank of Limerick was never appointed Treasurer to the Union while I was Vice-guardian, and no part of the collection was ever lodged there during that period. The Provincial Bank of Ennis continued to be and to act as Treasurer, and to furnish their weekly accounts as such as long as I had any share in the management of the Union, because I did not think it just or fair to remove the Treasurer-ship until all outstanding cheques were paid.

The National Bank of Limerick acted as bankers merely for the sums received from the British Association and from Government, which, being granted for the weekly support of the destitute, I did not think it expedient to mix with the collection.

I have to acknowledge, that the Vice-guardians drew cheques on the Ennis Bank before there were funds lodged sufficient to meet them; but the necessity of the case was urgent, and by so doing we were enabled to provide means for feeding the poor without striking a rate in March, which it was your wish we should avoid, if possible, but which otherwise we should have found it necessary to do.

Immediately

Immediately previous to my leaving Scariff, a number of cheques were drawn on the Provincial Bank of Ennis, in anticipation of the new rate then about to be put into collection; and I adopted this mode of settlement in order to relieve Mr. Wallace from the difficulties he would otherwise have experienced, in consequence of his ignorance of financial matters, and his not understanding Union accounts. As all the transactions had been entered into and were fully understood by me, it was the easiest method of arranging them. I never could have anticipated that Mr. Wallace, as one of the Vice-guardians who had signed those cheques, would have put a bar to their payment, and thereby compromised his own character as well as mine.

I have not now the means of referring to my official correspondence with the Commissioners, but I recollect that they suggested that we should endeavour to make use of our credit to obtain goods as far as was requisite. By much personal exertion, and using my personal influence, I was able to obtain goods on credit to a very considerable extent; but, in all cases, with the full understanding that payment should be made immediately out of the first rate collected.

At this moment I am personally liable for several debts incurred for the Union for food and clothing for the inmates of the workhouse, besides the amount of my own salary, due 28th July last, 62 *l.* 10 *s.*, for which I hold a cheque on Ennis Bank not yet paid. These debts are, cheque No. 541, 158 *l.* 15 *s.* 4 *d.* for rice, &c.; No. 535, 52 *l.* 10 *s.* for meal; and, without cheque, 400 *l.* for clothing, which I respectfully beg the Commissioners will be so good as to recommend the Vice-guardians to pay at once, or otherwise I shall be subjected to some embarrassment. There is also a sum of 8 *l.* 13 *s.* 11 *d.* due to me, for amount of meal, for which I was personally sued at quarter sessions, and, as a decree was obtained, I had to pay the amount.

In justice, as well as in courtesy, the present Vice-guardians ought to have carried out my arrangements, at least so far as not to compromise my character and credit, which were pledged to those parties who supplied the Union at my instance, when supplies were so instantly needed, that a week's delay might have cost the lives of thousands.

The arrangement I proposed previous to leaving Scariff would have, in a great degree, obviated the present difficulties, because the chief part of the collection would have continued to be lodged in the Provincial Bank of Ennis as heretofore, the outstanding cheques would have been gradually paid, and the credit of the Union would have been supported.

The course proposed by the Commissioners, in their letter of the 11th instant, to the present Vice-guardians, is that which, in my opinion, is best calculated to remedy the error which has been committed in changing the Treasurership before the outstanding cheques were paid.

I have, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Dublin.

J. J. Fisher.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
30 December 1848.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c., to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 22d instant, on the subject of the treasurership of the Scariff Union; and in reference thereto, I am to state, that the Commissioners certainly regarded the resolution passed by the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union, on the 20th April 1848, as rescinding the appointment of the Provincial Bank as treasurer, and appointing the National Bank to that office. In that resolution, the Vice-guardians recited various inconveniences which they experienced from having the Provincial Bank at Ennis for the Union Treasurer, and then proceeded as follows:—"It is recommended by the Vice-guardians, that the Commissioners should remove the manager of the Provincial Bank of Ireland from the office of Treasurer, and that the Manager of the National Bank of Ireland at Limerick be appointed to the office, for the following reasons." Several reasons for changing the Treasurer were then stated, and the Commissioners, deeming those reasons sufficient, stated that they would not object to the proposed change; and until the 13th November last, when they received a communication from Mr. Spaight on the subject, they were under the impression that it had been carried into effect.

The Commissioners desire to add, that even assuming that the Ennis Bank was properly continued as Treasurer, after the resolution of the Vice-guardians to change the Treasurer had received the sanction of the Commissioners, the Commissioners still think it is much to be regretted, that the Vice-guardians should have drawn cheques on that Bank at a time when it was known they would not be paid if presented.

The Commissioners regret that you should have incurred any personal liability in procuring supplies for the Union, and they will forward that portion of your letter which relates to those liabilities to the present Vice-guardians.

By Order, &c.

J. J. Fisher, Esq.,
Kanturk.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

No. 69,594/48. Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
Gentlemen, 30 December 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c. to forward to you the enclosed extract from a letter which the Commissioners have received from Mr. Fisher, relative to certain liabilities incurred by him for the Scariff Union while acting as Vice-guardian.

By Order, &c.
W. Stanley, Secretary.

The Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

Gentlemen, Limerick, 23 December 1848.

WE are favoured with your letters of 7th and 20th instant, No. 65,484 and No. 67,374; the latter informing us "that the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union are making arrangements to discharge the cheques we hold on the Provincial Bank of Ennis." If by "arrangements" you mean the mode pointed out by the enclosed notice from that Union, we pray you to return us the Provincial Bank letter sent you on 23d November, and we shall then lay the whole matter before Lord John Russell, and see whether he will sanction paid guardians in changing their bank of lodgment, in order to avoid payment of cheques previously issued.

We are, &c.
Harvey, Brothers.

To the Commissioners for administering
the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland,
Custom-house, Dublin.

Scariff Union Workhouse,
Sir, December 1848.

I AM directed by the Vice-guardians of this Union to forward you a resolution on their minutes, and I am also directed to express their hope, that you will accede to their terms under the present embarrassed circumstances of this Union.

I am, &c.
J. R. Cussen,
Pro tem. Clerk of the Union.

To Messrs. Harvey, Brothers,
Limerick.

Resolved,—That on taking into consideration the embarrassed state of the finance of this Union, we find that we cannot pay liabilities of the Union up to 29 September 1848, in full, out of the rate now in course of collection; we therefore deem it expedient, under the circumstances, to propose that the following mode of payment be adopted, namely, all outstanding cheques issued by the late dissolved Board of Guardians, and all debts amounting to 20 *l.* and under, be paid in full; the collectors of the late rate be paid a dividend of 10 *s.* in the pound on their certified collection, and all other creditors not comprised in the above dividend of 6 *s.* 8 *d.* in the pound on their certified accounts: And it is also resolved, That the clerk shall be directed to write to each of the creditors who have furnished their accounts, to inform them of the course we thus propose to adopt, and that we shall be prepared to put their respective demands into course of payment, according as the rate-collectors place funds in our hands, on receipt of their consent in writing to this arrangement.

No. 69,959/48. Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
Gentlemen, 29 December 1848.

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c. to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23d instant, referring to the Commissioners' letter of the 20th instant, informing you that the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union are making arrangements to discharge the cheques you hold on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, and requesting that the Provincial Bank letter enclosed with your communication of the 23d ultimo may be returned to you.

I am directed by the Commissioners to return herewith the letter to which you refer, in accordance with your request, and I am at the same time to state that the Commissioners, in using the word "arrangements" in their letter of the 20th instant, did not refer to the general arrangements which the Vice-guardians were endeavouring to make for a gradual discharge of the outstanding liabilities of the Union, but to a request which the Commissioners had made to the Vice-guardians, and which the Vice-guardians had promised to comply with as far as in their power, that immediate provision should be made for discharging the outstanding cheques on the Provincial Bank at Ennis.

The letter from the Vice-guardians which accompanies your communication is returned herewith.

By Order, &c.
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Messrs. Harvey & Brothers,
Limerick.

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen, Limerick, 1 January 1849.

We thank you for your letter of 29th ultimo, No. 69,959, with enclosures, as therein stated, and informing us that you had requested the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union to make immediate provision for the discharge of their outstanding cheques on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, with which request they had promised compliance "as far as in their power." We have no wish to act harshly, and are willing to wait further reasonable time; but the words underlined are so very vague, that we trust you will excuse us for asking you to name a period when the cheques we hold, 299*l.*, shall be paid.

We are, &c.

Harvey, Brothers.

The Commissioners for administering
the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland,
Custom-House, Dublin.

No. 362/49.

Poor Law Commission Office,
6 January 1849.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Commissioners, &c. to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, in which you request the Commissioners to name a period when the cheques which you hold on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, drawn by the late Vice-guardians of Scariff Union, shall be paid; and in reference thereto I am to state, that the Commissioners will communicate your letter to the Vice-guardians; but it is not within the power of the Commissioners to name a period when the cheques you hold shall be paid.

The Commissioners much regret that the cheques in question should have been drawn at a period when there were no funds to meet them, and they have done all in their power to remedy the error.

As soon as they heard of the existence of these cheques, they placed themselves in communication with the present Vice-guardians, and after receiving their explanation, and duly considering all the circumstances of the case, they wrote to the Vice-guardians in the following terms:

"The Commissioners are fully sensible of the difficulties of your position in regard to the cheques which have been drawn upon the Ennis Bank; and they much regret that cheques should, under any circumstances, have been given when there were no funds available to meet them; still, as the cheques have been given, the Commissioners think that the Vice-guardians are bound to provide for their payment at the earliest possible period; and the Commissioners request, therefore, that the Vice-guardians will either re-appoint the Ennis Bank as Treasurer, until the outstanding cheques upon that Bank are discharged, or that they will make immediate arrangements for paying the cheques which are outstanding.

"Whatever the difficulties may be which may be entailed upon the Vice-guardians by the adoption of this course, it appears to the Commissioners that there is no other course open to them (*i. e.* the Vice-guardians) which would be consistent with their public duty."

In reply to this communication, the Vice-guardians stated they would pay off the cheques in question as funds were placed in their hands; and the Commissioners have no reason to doubt that they will do so; but from the embarrassed state of the Union finances, and the circumstance that the outstanding cheques on the Ennis Bank amount to upwards of 2,000*l.*, the Commissioners fear that some little delay may occur before the whole can be paid.

By Order, &c.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Messrs. Harvey & Brothers,
Limerick.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
9 January 1849.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Commissioners, &c. to forward for your information the enclosed copy of a letter, which they have received from Harvey, Brothers, of Limerick, relative to the period for payment of the cheque given to their firm on account of the amount due to it by Scariff Union; and I am also to transmit a copy of the Commissioners' reply.

By Order, &c.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

The Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

Gentlemen, Limerick, 8 January 1849.

In reply to your letter of 6th instant, No. 362/49, will you permit us to state that the cheques of the Scariff Vice-guardians on the Bank at Ennis were issued in anticipation of a rate which has since been partially collected and paid into a Bank at Limerick; that these Vice-guardians (though requested by you to do so) have neither "re-appointed the Ennis Bank as Treasurer until the outstanding cheques on it were paid, nor made immediate arrangements for paying the cheques which are outstanding." Under these circumstances, it appears to us that while you continue in your service *Vice*-guardians who thus neglect your orders, you can hardly take credit for having done "all in your power to remedy the error."

We hope you will forgive our thus intruding our opinion, but you also have a public duty to perform, and the public (if aggrieved by *paid* Guardians, whom you appoint, and for whose *correct* management you are in some degree accountable) will naturally look to you for redress. Again thanking you for your attention to our complaint, and regretting that it should take up so much of your valuable time, and give so much trouble,

We remain, &c.

Harvey, Brothers.

The Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, Custom-house, Dublin.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
15 January 1849.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, in reply to the Commissioners' letter of the 6th instant, with regard to the payment of the cheques which you hold for the amount due to you by Scariff Union. The Commissioners much regret that you have not yet been paid the money due to you; and they will again communicate with the Vice-guardians on the subject.

By Order, &c.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Harvey, Brothers,
Limerick.

No. 1,951/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
15 January 1849.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to inform you that they have received a further communication from Harvey, Brothers, of Limerick, respecting the payment of the cheques given to that firm for the amount due to it by Scariff Union, and I am to state, that if you cannot at once pay the cheques, or make an arrangement on the subject satisfactory to Harvey, Brothers, the Commissioners request that you will at once appoint the Ennis Bank as Treasurer of Scariff Union.

The Commissioners think that the non-payment of the cheque, combined with the change of Treasurer, materially affects the honour of the Vice-guardians as a Board; and the Commissioners think that at any risks and any inconveniences the cheques should be cashed, or the matter arranged to the satisfaction of Harvey, Brothers, or the Treasurer again changed.

By Order, &c.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

The Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

Gentlemen, Kanturk, 15 January 1849.

I had the honour of receiving your letter of 30th December, No. 69,594/48, in which you state that you had forwarded to the Vice-guardians of the Scariff Union that part of my letter of 22d December last, in which I gave a statement of the personal liabilities which I had incurred in procuring supplies for that Union, at a time when they could not be otherwise obtained, and I regret to say that I have since had no letter from the Vice-guardians on the subject.

The delay in paying off those debts for which I am liable has caused me much embarrassment; but if the request made by you to the Vice-guardians in your letter of 11th December,

December, No. 67,374/48, were carried into effect, namely, "that they would either re-appoint the Ennis Bank as Treasurer, until the outstanding cheques upon that Bank are discharged, or that they would make immediate arrangements for paying the cheques which are outstanding," it would relieve me and others from much difficulty, and be performing only what, if I had been continued as Vice-guardian in that Union, I should have considered myself bound to do.

I have, &c.
J. J. Fisher.

To the Poor Law Commissioners,
Dublin.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
18 January 1849.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c., to forward to you the enclosed copy of a letter which the Commissioners have received from Mr. Fisher, relative to his claim on the Scariff Union, and I am to refer you to the letter which the Commissioners addressed to you on the 15th instant, on the subject of Messrs. Harvey's claim.

By Order,
A. M., for Secretary.

The Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

No. 3,549/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
18 January 1849.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c., to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, relative to your claim on the Scariff Union, and I am to inform you, that the Commissioners have again addressed the Vice-guardians on the subject.

By Order,
A. M., for Secretary.

J. J. Fisher, Esq., Vice-guardian,
Kanturk.

Limerick, 17 January 1849.

Gentlemen,

WE take the liberty of addressing you on the subject of our claims on the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union, as we despair of obtaining redress by adopting any other course.

We hold three cheques of the Vice-guardians on their late bankers, the Provincial Bank of Ennis; viz.

One for 136 *l.* 8 *s.* 4 *d.* for rice sold and delivered in May last, under a written engagement that it was to be paid for in two months from date of sale (8th May).

One for 207 *l.* 5 *s.* 3 *d.* for building materials supplied John Sullivan, contractor for certain buildings at the workhouse, and for which buildings, we are informed, the money was specially advanced by you. If such was the case, this cheque, issued as an instalment to the contractor, ought to have been paid out of such money.

The third cheque, 33 *l.* 6 *s.* 8 *d.*, was for sacks; and the agreement was that they were to have been paid for immediately after delivery.

Upon receipt of these cheques we sent them through our bankers to Ennis for collection; but, after some time, they were returned to us, with a statement that there was no funds to meet them, nor likely to be any, as the Guardians had changed their Bank account to the National Bank, Limerick! On this step we can put no other construction than that it was taken to avoid the payment of their lawful engagements.

We trust that we have shown in the foregoing statement that we have not made an appeal to you without good cause; and in the full expectation that it will lead to a speedy settlement of our claims.

We remain, &c.
James Harvey & Co.

To the Commissioners for administering
the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland,
Custom-house, Dublin.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
20 January 1849.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to forward to you the enclosed copy of a communication which they have received from Messrs. James Harvey & Co., of Limerick, relative to their claim on Scariff Union.

By Order, &c.
A. M., for Secretary.

The Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

No. 4,068/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
20 January 1849.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th instant relative to your claim on the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union, and I am to state, that the Commissioners are in communication with the Vice-guardians on the subject of the outstanding cheques on the Ennis Bank.

By Order, &c.
A. M., for Secretary.

Messrs. J. Harvey & Co.
Limerick.

Limerick, 19 January 1849.

Gentlemen,

ENCLOSED I beg to hand copy of cheque issued in July last by the Scariff Vice-guardians on the Ennis Provincial Bank for 50 *l.*, at the time their account was removed to the National Bank at Limerick.

I received this cheque from Mr. F. Sparling, in part payment of goods delivered, and gave him cash for the balance, expecting it would be at once paid.

I have applied to the Union for the amount, and they state there are no funds.

Considering this cheque being issued in a deceptive form, I have taken the liberty to solicit your interference in ordering this amount to be paid.

I am, &c.
John Russell.

The Poor Law Commissioners,
Dublin.

Cr. Limerick Branch.

No. 496.

To the Manager of the Provincial Bank of Ireland.

Ennis, 14 July 1848.

PAY Mr. Henry F. Sparling, or bearer, fifty pounds sterling, for bread delivered at the workhouse, which charge to account of the Vice-guardians.

(signed) *J. J. Fisher.*
Lewis Fitzmaurice.
M. Hennessy, Clerk, Union.

£. 50. 0. 0.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
22 January 1849.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c., to forward herewith for your information a copy of a communication which they have received from Mr. John Russell relative to a cheque for 50 *l.* drawn on the Provincial Bank at Ennis by the late Vice-guardians, and I am to refer to you for previous letters on the same subject.

By order, &c.
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To the Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

No. 4,557/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
22 January 1849.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c., to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, relative to cheques drawn on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, and I am to state, that the Commissioners are in communication with the Vice-guardians on the subject.

By order, &c.
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To John Russell, Esq.,
Limerick.

Sir,

Sir, Limerick, 25 January 1849.

On receipt of your letter of the 20th December last, No. 67,374, I applied to the Vice-guardians of the Scariff Union respecting the payment of my check, and though I have made several applications to them, I have got nothing but promises of pay when funds can be had. I consider this very bad treatment under the circumstances already stated, and money so long due as it has been to me, ought to be paid before those now supplying goods. It is no wonder that this Union should get into difficulties, and that credit will not be given, when parties have been so ill used as myself, with a check given on Treasurer known not to have any funds. I trust that some immediate means may be found to have my claim settled.

I am, &c.
Fran. Spaight.

W. Stanley, Esq., Secretary,
Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin.

No. 6,111/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
Sir, 26 January 1849.

I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 25th instant, and I am to state that the subject of your communication will receive the Commissioners' attention.

I have, &c.
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To Francis Spaight, Esq., &c.
Limerick.

Gentlemen, Scariff, 26 January 1849.

We have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your three letters, under dates 9th, 15th and 22d instant, containing copies of letters addressed to you by certain parties, and having relation to the cheques issued on the Provincial Bank in Ennis. We must express our deep regret that we have not been able to meet those cheques, or even to give such replies as would be satisfactory to the parties who hold them. We have already forwarded for your information a detailed list of such as are outstanding, with dates and amount of each respectively, and you have been pleased to express how fully sensible you are of the difficulty of our position in regard to those cheques. You readily understand, therefore, how this matter has embarrassed us; but we feel called upon to say that the charge of "defrauding by a sham and useless document," and of "having acted deceptively," does not apply to us. We were appointed to the charge of the Scariff Union on the 9th of October 1848, and found those sham and useless documents to the amount of 2,300 *l.* in existence, and without the means of paying them. If any charge implying deceit and fraud can be made, let that charge be applied to the parties who issued those cheques, and not to us. We feel sore under the imputation, but nevertheless would have let Mr. Spaight's remark remain unnoticed, were it not that we find the charge reiterated in another form by Mr. Russell; we are anxious, therefore, to clear ourselves of such an unworthy stigma. Another imputation that we feel most anxious to remove off our shoulders is, that we made the National Bank in Limerick the Treasurer, to avoid payment of those cheques; to this we reply most unequivocally, that we had no such view or intention. On the 9th of October 1848, we found the National Bank in Limerick our Treasurer, with what funds were available in their possession, and we were not aware that the Provincial Bank in Ennis should be considered the Treasurer of the Union. Mr. Spaight's interview, and the explanation consequent upon it, first drew our attention to the matter, and on inquiry we found the minute removing that bank, and appointing the National Bank in Limerick in its stead.

No. 65,483/48.

See Mr. Spaight's letter, No. 61,621/48.

See Mr. Russell's letter, No. 4,557/49.

Gentlemen, the state of the finances of the Scariff Union has been lately made the subject of more than one Report. You are made perfectly acquainted with our position; you see the utter impossibility of meeting those cheques at present, and could we but see that by re-appointing the Provincial Bank in Ennis as our Treasurer, those cheques would be nearer discharge, we would do so at once, but the move would not better the position of the parties who hold them. In your reply to the letters addressed to you, we wish you to state our most anxious desire to meet all our creditors with the best terms we can afford to offer, and that we shall endeavour to pay the cheques in question, giving them the preference they are justly entitled to, according as we are in a position to meet them.

See Minutes of 21 April 1848, and the Commissioners' approval thereof. No. 22,272/48, dated 1 May 1848.

We have, &c.
James F. Rolleston.
Thomas Spark.

To the Commissioners for administering
the Laws for the Relief of the Poor in Ireland.

No. 6,254/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
3 February 1849.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ult., relative to the non-payment of the cheques drawn on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, as Treasurer of Scariff Union, and I am to state, that the Commissioners have fully considered all the circumstances
No. 1,951. of the case; and they can only repeat the request contained in their letter of the 15th ult., that you will at once re-appoint the Ennis Bank as Treasurer of Scariff Union.

By Order, &c.

The Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Gentlemen,

Scariff, 27 January 1849.

WE beg leave to state, in allusion to our letter of yesterday's date, that we neglected to say that we are prepared, at the risk of any inconvenience, to make the Provincial Bank in Ennis our Treasurer, in accordance with your wishes, if you think it still advisable that we should do so; but you must see that if this arrangement had been carried into effect
No. 65,483. 1848. when you first intimated to us your wishes, in your letter of the 11th December 1848, the consequence would be that the 500*l.* you have sent us would be at once absorbed by the outstanding cheques, and would not now be available to us for the relief of the destitute.

To the Commissioners for administering
the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland.

James F. Rolleston.
Thomas Spark.

No. 6,465/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
6 February 1849.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c. to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your Report of the 27th ultimo, relating to the Scariff Union.

As regards your statement that you are prepared at the risk of any inconvenience to make the Provincial Bank at Ennis your Treasurer, if the Commissioners think it advisable, I am to state that the Commissioners, as they have already informed you, think there is no course open to you but to re-appoint the Ennis Bank as Treasurer of the Union.

By Order, &c.

To the Vice-guardians,
Scariff Union.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Gentlemen,

Limerick, 31 January 1849.

WE were duly favoured with your letter No. 1, 951, dated 15th instant, expressing your regret that we had not been paid, and stating that you would again communicate with the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union on the subject. We now take the liberty of suggesting that you should send these gentlemen a sealed letter, requiring them to pay us by a certain day, on pain of dismissal; and if they should not comply, there is little doubt but you can supply their places with those who will pay more attention to your "urgent requests."

We remain, &c.

The Commissioners for administering
the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland,
Custom-house, Dublin.

Harvey, Brothers.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
8 February 1849.

Gentlemen,

I AM directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, relative to your claim upon the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union; and I am to state that the Commissioners are informed that the Provincial Bank at Ennis has been re-appointed Treasurer of Scariff Union.

By Order, &c.

Harvey, Brothers,
Limerick.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

No. 7,396/49.

No. 7,396/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
9 February 1849.

Sir,

The Commissioners, &c. have had before them your observations on the communication of Messrs. Harvey, Brothers, in which you state that the Vice-guardians of Scariff Union have re-appointed the Provincial Bank at Ennis as Treasurer of the Union, and that you had lodged the sum of 500*l.* lately advanced by the Commissariat Department, for the immediate wants of the Union, in the National Bank at Limerick, to the credit of the Vice-guardians; and I am to state that, under all the circumstances, the Commissioners think it is on the whole advisable that the Vice-guardians should not have two Treasurers, but that it would be better for you to place the money to your own credit at the Provincial Bank at Ennis, with instructions that no cheque should be honoured which was not signed by yourself, and countersigned by the two Vice-guardians.

I have, &c.

Capt. Spark, R.N.
Scariff.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Killaloe, 3 February 1849.

Gentlemen,

I have again relieved the Vice-guardians of the Scariff Union from a difficulty by supplying them with Indian meal for the current week, making the terms of repayment easy to them.

For the future they must be in a position to pay cash, or the poor will be without food, as no trader will enter into a credit contract with a Union in such a fearful state of embarrassment as is Scariff, and at this particular juncture when the duties of Vice-guardians in this Union are about to cease on the 25th March.

Should this rule be carried out, I must respectfully inform you, that the fate of this Union will thereby be sealed, as nothing then can save it from bankruptcy and confusion.

The elected Board of Guardians mean to go into office to hold it for a very short time, and then resign, thereby making confusion worse confounded. It is my duty, and the duty of every well-wisher of order, to give you timely notice of this determination.

I have, &c.

The Poor Law Commissioners.

William Digan.

No. 8,120/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
7 February 1849.

Sir,

I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant, relative to the financial condition of Scariff Union; and I am to state, that the Commissioners have the condition of the Union under their attentive consideration.

By Order, &c.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

William Digan, Esq.
Killaloe.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
6 February 1849.

Sir,

Adverting to the Commissioners' letter of the 31st ult., the Commissioners, &c. are desirous of calling the attention of Secretary Sir George Grey to the annexed copy of a letter of one of the contractors of Scariff Union, as illustrative of the impression prevalent in some of the most distressed Unions as to the effect of restoring elective Boards of Guardians at the present time.

I have, &c.

G. C. Lewis, Esq., M.P., &c. &c.
Home Office, London.

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
6 February 1849.

Sir,

Connected with the letter of the 23d ult., which the Commissioners addressed to the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury respecting Scariff Union, the Commissioners are desirous of requesting their Lordships, in accordance with their letter of the 31st ult., to permit the Commissioners to advance money to Scariff Union until the Vice-guardians have discharged an existing debt of 2,231*l.* 17*s.* 4*d.* No. 4,722. No. 7,526.

The circumstances connected with this debt are as follow:—

In the early part of last year the Vice-guardians applied to the Commissioners for permission to change their Treasurer, by discontinuing the Manager of the Provincial Bank

at Ennis, and appointing the Manager of the National Bank at Limerick, and the Commissioners gave their sanction to the arrangement.

It has, however, recently come to the knowledge of the Commissioners, that although this arrangement was approved by the Commissioners, the Vice-guardians did not carry it into effect, owing, as they state, to the account with the Ennis Bank having been considerably overdrawn. The Vice-guardians, however, availed themselves of the services of the Limerick Bank for depositing the advances which were from time to time made to the Union by the British Association and by Government, thus preserving such advances for the immediate and current purposes of the Union, which could not have been done had the money been paid into the Ennis Bank in the ordinary way, cheques to a considerable amount having been drawn on that Bank in anticipation of the funds that would be paid in.

The rate collectors continued to lodge the money collected in the Ennis Bank, and the Vice-guardians continued to draw cheques upon that Bank until the month of October last, when the Commissioners deemed it expedient to remove Major Hart, the Inspector, and Mr. Fisher, one of the Vice-guardians, to other Unions. On Captain Spark and Mr. Rolleston, the Inspector and Vice-guardian appointed in the room of Major Hart and Mr. Fisher, they discovered the resolution to change the Union Treasurer, and considering that they would not be justified in continuing lodgments with a banker who had ceased to be legally appointed Treasurer, they directed all future lodgments to be made in the Limerick Bank. At this time cheques had been drawn on the Ennis Bank to the amount of nearly 3,000 *l.*, and on the decision of the Vice-guardians becoming known, several of the owners of the outstanding cheques on the Ennis Bank, many of whom are highly respectable merchants, wrote strong remonstrances to the Commissioners on the subject, charging the Vice-guardians with deception and fraud in issuing cheques on a banker in whose hands they had no funds; and under these circumstances, the Commissioners felt that there was no course open to them but to require the Vice-guardians, if they could not at once pay the cheques, nor make an arrangement on the subject, to re-appoint the Ennis Bank as their Treasurer.

The effect of this proceeding will, however, necessarily deprive the Union of funds until the outstanding cheques in question are paid, inasmuch as the cheques being already lodged with the Manager of the Ennis Bank, any money that may be lodged with him will be applied at once to the payment of the cheques, and hence the necessity of the Commissioners' request in this instance.

For the general financial condition of the Union, the Commissioners desire to refer their Lordships to the letter of the 23d ult. above referred to.

I have, &c.
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Sir C. E. Trevelyan, K.C.B.
Treasury, London.

Gentlemen,

Limerick, 12 February 1849.

We have your favour of 8th instant, No. 7,396, advising the re-appointment of the Provincial Bank at Ennis as Treasurer to the Scariff Union, and a letter from the Manager there, dated 10th, stating, "no funds had been lodged to meet the cheques."

Under these circumstances, it would appear as if there would be little use in our troubling you with further correspondence, and that our best way will be to put ourselves in communication with the Parliamentary Committee appointed to consider the Poor Laws for Ireland; if we should have no reply from you in course of post, we shall write the Chairman, or one of the Committee.

We are, &c.
Harvey, Brothers.

The Commissioners for administering
the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland,
Custom-house, Dublin.

No. 10,350/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
13 February 1849.

Gentlemen,

I am directed by the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th instant, in which you state you have received the Commissioners' letter of the 8th instant, advising you of the re-appointment of the Provincial Bank at Ennis as Treasurer of Scariff Union, and a letter from the Manager there, stating that no funds had been lodged to meet the cheques, and you add that, under those circumstances, it would appear as if there would be little use in your troubling the Commissioners with further correspondence, and that your best way will be to put yourselves in communication with the Parliamentary Committee appointed to consider the Poor Laws for Ireland, and that if you should have no reply from the Commissioners in course of post, you would write to the Chairman, or one of the Committee.

By Order, &c.
W. Stanley,
Secretary.

Harvey, Brothers,
Limerick.

No. 11,751/49.

No. 11,751/49.

Gentlemen, O'Brien's Bridge Mills, Castle Connell, 17 Feb. 1849.

We beg to state to you, that we have been handed by Mr. H. T. Sparling, of Scariff, a cheque for 100 *l.* dated 29th July 1848, and drawn on the Manager of the Provincial Bank, Ennis, signed by "J. J. Fisher and Horatio N. Wallace, Vice-guardians," and "Mr. Hennessy, Clerk to Scariff Union;" that we forwarded this cheque to Mr. Jas. Menzies, the Manager of the Bank at Ennis, and that we have received from him a reply, stating he has no funds in his hands belonging to the Scariff Union, and besides that, this account has long since been transferred from his Bank to the National Bank, Limerick.

Under these circumstances, we beg to ask you what course you would recommend us to adopt to recover the amount of this cheque; as, we apprehend, the parties who signed the cheque have laid themselves open to an action for fraud, in giving it in payment for an account, at same time knowing there were no funds in Bank to meet it. Requesting your attention to this matter,

We are, &c.

To the Poor Law Commissioners, Dublin. *James Denniston & Co.*

Gentlemen, Whitehall, 21 February 1849.

I am directed by Secretary Sir George Grey to transmit to you the enclosed statement, which has been addressed to the Select Committee of the House of Commons, appointed to inquire into the Irish Poor Law, by Mr. R. Harvey of Limerick, relative to the non-payment of two cheques given by the Vice-guardians of the Scariff Union; and I am to request that you will favour Sir George Grey with your observations on Mr. Harvey's statement. *Feb. 15.*

I am, &c.

The Poor Law Commissioners, &c. &c. Dublin. *G. Cornewall Lewis.*

To the Chairman of the Irish Poor Law Committee.

Limerick, 15 February 1849.

I take the liberty of making, for the information of the Committee, the following statement:—

On 1st of July, my house (Harvey, Brothers) supplied a contractor of the Scariff Union with flour and Indian meal to the amount of 199 *l.*, on the written assurance of one of its Vice-guardians that we should obtain payment in three or four weeks; (we had previously given cash and goods to the same contractor on their cheque for 100 *l.*, which we still hold).

After the promised time had expired, we applied for a cheque for 199 *l.*, which, however, we did not receive till 5th October, and when we sent both cheques for payment, "there were no funds," and it was reported that the Vice-guardians were lodging in another Bank the rate then in course of collection.

On 10th November, we wrote to the Vice-guardians, stating the report, and asking, in the event of its being true, whether they would give us cheques on the Bank into which the collection was said to be paying, for those we held on the Bank where "there were no funds."

Not receiving any reply, we wrote on the 23d November to the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, and enclosed a letter from the manager of the Bank at Ennis, on which the cheques were drawn, confirming the report that the rate then collecting was paying into a Bank at Limerick, and requesting the Commisioners would instruct the Vice-guardians to exchange the cheques we held on the Bank at Ennis for cheques on the Limerick Bank, "as we could not suppose they would sanction the Vice-guardians in changing the Bank of lodgment, in order to evade payment of cheques previously issued."

After nearly three months' correspondence with the Commissioners, we are informed by them of the re-appointment of the Ennis Bank as Treasurer to the Scariff Union, but on sending the cheques for payment, we are again told, "there are no funds."

Under these circumstances, there seems little use in our further troubling the Commissioners, and I now lay the matter before the Committee, in the hope that we may not only obtain speedy redress, but that measures should be taken to prevent the possibility of such disreputable conduct in future,

I am, &c.
R. Harvey,

Our cheques are No. 458, dated 22 June 1848 - - £. 100.
Ditto - No. 537, dated 5 October 1848 - £. 199.

No. 12,906/49.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
26 February 1849.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Commissioners, &c. to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 21st instant, enclosing a statement which has been addressed to the Select Committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the Irish Poor Law, by Mr. R. Harvey, of Limerick, relative to the non-payment of two cheques given by the Vice-guardians of the Scariff Union, and requesting the Commissioners' observations on Mr. Harvey's statement.

In reference thereto, I am directed by the Commissioners to make the following statement for Sir George Grey's information:—

22,272. On the 20th April 1848, the Vice-guardians (Messrs. Fisher and Fitzmaurice) passed a resolution, recommending that the manager of the Provincial Bank at Ennis should be removed from the office of Treasurer, and the Manager of the National Bank of Ireland, at Limerick, appointed to the office, on the following grounds, as set forth in their minutes; viz.—

Because the means of communication with Limerick are direct and frequent, not only from Scariff, but from all parts of the Union:

Because the National Bank is generally more accommodating in making advances on reasonable security than the Provincial Bank, and will be much more convenient to the Vice-guardians to make communications and arrangements with the Treasurer in Limerick than in Ennis:

Because a great difficulty has been found frequently in obtaining silver, or sometimes any exchange for a cheque in Ennis by the relieving officers, while a cheque in Limerick could be readily exchanged; and silver can be conveyed from Limerick to Scariff with less risk, expense and difficulty than from Ennis.

The Commissioners at once signified their acquiescence in the arrangement, and they had no reason to suppose that it had not been duly carried out until November last, when they received communications from Mr. Harvey, and another of the creditors of Scariff Union, stating that they held cheques on the Provincial Bank at Ennis, where there were no funds, and that the collection was being paid into the National Bank at Limerick, and they requested the Commissioners to instruct the Vice-guardians to exchange the cheques which they held for cheques on the National Bank.

The Commissioners, having requested the observations of the Vice-guardians on the subject, then learned, for the first time, that the late Vice-guardians had never, in fact, acted on the resolution of the 20th April, for the removal of the Provincial Bank at Ennis from the office of Treasurer; and it appeared that the present Vice-guardians (by whom the discontinuance of lodgments with the Ennis Bank had been made) declined to substitute cheques on the National Bank for those on the Provincial Bank, on the ground that they had no funds; that there were a number of other outstanding cheques of the same kind, and that the Vice-guardians, who were then endeavouring to effect an arrangement with the creditors of the Union, proposed to treat these cheques in the same manner as the other debts of the Union.

The Vice-guardians who were in office at this period were not those who proposed the change of Treasurer, neither was the same Inspector in charge of the Union, and the Commissioners, therefore, wrote to Mr. Fisher (the Vice-guardian, whose services had been transferred to another Union), and also to Major Hart, who was Inspector of the Union during the period in question, but whose services had been transferred to Listowel Union, requesting their respective explanations.

Mr. Fisher's explanation was to the effect, that after the Commissioners' consent to the change of Treasurer was obtained, no further steps were taken in the matter by the Vice-guardians, because the Treasurer's account was at the time overdrawn, and owing to the constant pressure for funds it continued to be so, but that the weekly collection of rate continued to be lodged at the Provincial Bank of Ennis, and the Vice-guardians' cheques on that Bank continued to be paid as far as funds were lodged, up to the first week in October, when he ceased to be Vice-guardian of Scariff Union. Mr. Fisher also states, that cheques on the Provincial Bank were only issued at the request of such parties as were willing to take them, and give receipts for the amount, with the knowledge that they could not be paid immediately, but only according as the rate was collected and lodged: during this time, however, the Limerick Bank was also made use of for the lodgment of the money advanced by the British Relief Association and by Government, which, according to the terms of the advance, was not applicable to the payment of debts.

Mr. Fisher expresses his regret that his successors had not thought fit to continue this arrangement, which, however, it appears that they did not consider themselves justified in doing, in consequence of the resolution of the 20th April, according to which they considered that the Provincial Bank was not the Union Treasurer, and that, therefore, lodgments of rate collected could not properly be made in that Bank.

Major Hart forwarded an explanation, substantially the same as that given by Mr. Fisher.

With

With these facts before them, the Commissioners, on the 28th November, wrote to the Vice-guardians, stating that the only course open to them appeared to be, to rescind the order appointing the National Bank, and to reinstate the Provincial Bank at Ennis in the office of Treasurer.

The Vice-guardians were extremely unwilling to adopt this course, as they stated it would materially embarrass the arrangements they were then making for the gradual discharge of the very heavy liabilities of the Union, by instalments of 6*s.* 8*d.* in the pound, inasmuch as cheques amounting to nearly 2,500*l.* were then outstanding on the Ennis Bank, and would absorb all the rate that could be paid into that Bank until they were discharged, thus not only preventing the contemplated arrangement, but for a time altogether depriving the Vice-guardians of funds to carry on the administration of relief to the destitute.

The Commissioners, however, still deemed it their duty to request, that the Vice-guardians would either re-appoint the Ennis Bank as Treasurer until the outstanding cheques were discharged, or that they would make immediate arrangements for paying the cheques, and they wrote to the Vice-guardians accordingly.

On the 12th December the Vice-guardians wrote to the Commissioners, expressing their acquiescence in the instructions which they had received.

On the 9th January, the Commissioners received a further letter from Messrs. Harvey, stating, that the Vice-guardians had neither re-appointed the Ennis Bank, nor made immediate arrangements for paying the outstanding cheques, and they suggested that the Vice-guardians ought to be removed; and the Commissioners thereupon again addressed the Vice-guardians, requesting, that if the Vice-guardians could not at once pay the cheques, or make an arrangement which would be satisfactory to Messrs. Harvey, they would at once appoint the Ennis Bank as Treasurer of Scariff Union; and the Commissioners at the same time stated, that the non-payment of the cheques, combined with the change of Treasurer, materially affected the honour of the Vice-guardians as a Board, and that at any risk and any inconvenience the cheques should be cashed, or the matter arranged satisfactorily, or the Treasurer changed. Eventually (on the 6th instant) the Ennis Bank was re-appointed Treasurer of the Union, but from the extreme poverty of the Union it appears unlikely (even when the new rate is put in course of collection, which the Commissioners believe will be in the course of a few days) that sufficient funds will be collected to pay off the whole of these cheques for some time.

On the whole, however, the Commissioners do not think that the course pursued by either the late or the present Vice-guardians is sufficient to justify the extreme course suggested by Messrs. Harvey, namely, removing them from office; but the Commissioners have expressed both to Mr. Fisher and Major Hart their great regret at the irregular course which was pursued in drawing cheques on the Ennis Bank, when there were no funds there to the credit of the Vice-guardians.

It should be observed that Mr. Wallace (one of the present Vice-guardians) was a party to the more recent cheques drawn on the Ennis Bank, but he had no part in making the original arrangement, and it is presumed that he signed the cheques in accordance with a practice which he found in existence when he first went to the Union.

Mr. Harvey's letter is herewith returned.

I have, &c.

W. Stanley.

G. Cornewall Lewis, Esq., M. P. &c. &c.
Home Office, London.

Appendix D.

SEALED ORDER FOR OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

No. 10,326/49.

Kells Union.

To the Guardians of the Poor of the Kells Union; to the Clerk and other Officers of the said Union, and to all other Persons whom it may concern.

Whereas it has been shown to our satisfaction, that, by reason of the want of room in the Workhouse of the said Union, adequate relief cannot be afforded therein to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled, or destitute poor persons disabled by sickness or accident, or destitute poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them, and it is expedient to authorize and empower the Guardians of the said Union to administer relief out of the Workhouse, for a limited time as hereinafter mentioned, to such destitute poor persons, except able-bodied women who have not been married, or who being widows have no child dependent on them, and able-bodied men who have not more than two children dependent on them respectively:

Now therefore, We, the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland, do hereby authorize and empower the said Guardians to administer relief out of the Workhouse, in food, to destitute poor persons not being persons permanently disabled from labour by reason of old age, infirmity, or bodily or mental defect, and not being persons disabled from labour by reason of severe sickness or serious accident, and thereby deprived of the means of earning a subsistence for themselves and their families, whom they are liable by law to maintain, and not being poor widows having two or more legitimate children dependent on them; excepting, nevertheless, from the operation of this Order, able-bodied women who have not been married, or who being widows have no child dependent on them, and able-bodied men who have not more than two children dependent on them respectively, for the period from the date of this Order to the Seventeenth day of March next inclusive.

And we do hereby make the following Rules and Regulations as to the granting, ordering, and giving of relief to all persons who shall be relieved by the said Guardians under the authority of this Order, that is to say—

1. Every person relieved under the authority of this Order shall be relieved in food only, and such food shall, as far as is practicable, be cooked food.

2. Every able-bodied male person relieved under the authority of this Order shall, so far as is practicable, be set to perform a task of work during eight hours at least of every day for which he receives such relief.

3. No able-bodied person who shall be in employment, nor any part of his or her family, shall receive relief as a destitute person under the authority of this Order.

And for the more effectual administration of relief under this Order, we do hereby authorize and direct the said Guardians to appoint so many Relieving Officers as shall be found sufficient from time to time to superintend the labour of such persons as shall be set to work, in pursuance of the Regulations in this Order contained, and otherwise to assist in the administration of relief under this Order, as the said Guardians, subject to our approval, shall direct.

(seal.) Sealed with our Seal, this Seventeenth day of February, in the year of Our Lord One thousand eight hundred and Forty-nine.

(signed) *E. T. B. Twisleton.*

(countersigned)
W. Stanley, Secretary.

Appendix E.

RESOLUTIONS of Committee of Guardians, and Circular addressed by them to Boards of Guardians.

Committee Rooms, Northumberland-buildings,
Dublin, December 1848.

To the Chairman of the Board of Guardians.

The Committee appointed from the general meeting of Poor Law Guardians, on the 19th instant, in this place, desire, in pursuance of the duty committed to them, to call your attention, and that of your Board of Guardians, to the following subjects, which have seemed to them of paramount importance: 1st. The destructive effect of the large size of districts for rating for the poor, by which the cost of each pauper is divided over so many rate-payers and so large a space, that none are induced to use exertion to rescue him from pauperism, and few concerned can know the circumstances of his case so as to prevent imposition; while, at the same time, by the arbitrary binding together of several different properties, the greatest discouragement is given to employment and improvement, and the greatest encouragement to the negligent or cruel landowner to turn out the poor occupiers without means of support, when he finds that the law relieves him from the greater part of the cost of sustaining them as paupers, by obliging the adjoining land of other proprietors to pay a full share of the expense which he has caused.

The means of removing this chief and most crying evil resulting from the present system, appears to be the reducing of the size of districts for rating for the poor, so that each poor man's case shall be made the care or the cost of a small number of rate-payers. And as the division by townlands exists, this is recommended to consideration as the basis of a new arrangement, allowing of the dividing any large, or uniting small, townlands, belonging to one proprietor, when it may be required.

The effect would be, that in an electoral division containing fifty townlands and fifty paupers, instead of each townland on an average paying one-fiftieth of each pauper's cost in the house, each townland would, on an average, pay the whole cost of one pauper, which would come to the very same sum, supposing the whole fifty to go to the house. But if any townland would provide employment or other means to keep its share of poor out of the house and off the rates, it would not be charged for the cost of the others who might be neglected, or from any cause not kept from destitution; and thus it is plain, that many poor would be kept from destitution, much expenditure in the Poor-house would be saved, and many rate-payers and proprietors would be rescued from the overwhelming ruin which threatens us under the present system.

Those properties which now have the advantage of being whole electoral divisions, and standing alone for rating, would derive still some benefit from the general advantage and diminution of pauperism, while in no respect would they be injured by a change so vitally necessary for their less fortunate neighbour's welfare.

Hence, in considering the following subjects, which seem also necessary for the working of the Poor Law, respect should be had to the first principle of reducing the size of rating districts, and keeping the responsibility of each pauper to few rate-payers, and, if possible, to one proprietor; as want of care in adhering to this principle may render the subsequent alterations fatal to the improvement of the law, and to the saving of all classes in our country.

We would press upon the Guardians the importance of urging, most strongly, the absolute necessity of a full and early attendance of all Members of Parliament in their places, to obtain the necessary alterations in the law.

The Board is requested to return the Query Papers; each query to be fully answered and numbered, with the figure to correspond with the number of the query it is intended to answer, and adding such observations and suggestions upon any point as they may think useful, and signed by those Guardians approving of the same.

As there may be some difference of opinion on some minor matters, there are sent two copies of queries, to be respectively filled up as above described. It is requested that the queries and answers will be returned as soon as possible; and it is further requested that you will procure, or cause to be procured, from the Guardians and Rate-payers of your Union such subscriptions as they are willing to contribute, and forward same here to me for the purpose of defraying the expenses of the Poor Law Amendment Association.

Your obedient servant,

Thomas Rotherham,
Honorary Secretary.

PROPOSITIONS SUBMITTED TO POOR LAW GUARDIANS.

Poor Law Committee Rooms, Northumberland-buildings,
December 1848.

Proposed for Consideration—

I.—That in order to carry out the principle that responsibility should be individualized as far as is possible, rating districts be recommended, taking townlands for their basis, but allowing a modification by uniting or dividing one or more townlands, under certain restrictions, making them, wherever feasible, conterminous with property.

II.—That a Union rate should be laid on the whole valuation of each Union, to be applied to Union objects, so as to interfere as little as possible with the principle of individualizing responsibility.

III.—That, subsequently, each rating district be charged for its own pauperism.

IV.—That when in any one year the paid rate on any rating district exceeds ( ) in the pound, a rate in aid be laid on the whole Union to the extent of one-half of the surplus expense, provided the said rate shall not exceed ( ) in the pound; and that if, after this rate in aid, there be still unrelieved pauperism in any rating district, a further rate in aid should be given, to the extent of one-half of the further charge, from national and not from local sources.

V.—That the expense of the building of poor-houses, as well as of all medical charities, should be provided for from national sources.

VI.—That all rent-charges and annuities payable out of land should be in future chargeable as rent with poor-rate.

VII.—That Boards of Guardians should be empowered to appoint electoral division committees, composed of the guardians and payers of rate, paying ( ), to manage the peculiar business of the electoral division, and relieve the meeting of the Union Board from details.

VIII.—That a law of settlement be so adjusted as to accord with the principle of the individualizing of responsibility, and to interfere as little as possible with the free movement of the labouring population, and for that purpose we recommend the immediate establishment of a registry of deaths, births and marriages in Ireland.

IX.—That all occupiers at and under 4 *l.* should be chargeable with the tenant's share of rates, experience having shown that the contrary, in the case of small tenants, renders them not only irresponsible, but actually hostile to all economy of rates or prevention of pauperism, and, practically, has not been found to afford the relief contemplated to those classes for whose benefit the exemption was made.

X.—That the Ordnance valuation, brought to the fair setting value, be adopted as the basis of Poor Law valuation.

XI.—That a paid Guardian be appointed to each Board of Guardians to be the executive officer of the Board.

It is requested to fill up the blanks in queries IV. and VII., with the figures which may be considered best suited to the circumstances of your Union, and to return this sheet at your earliest convenience.

Appendix F.

AUDIT OF UNION ACCOUNTS.

DATES to which the Union Accounts had been Audited at the End of February 1849.

The Accounts of the several Unions have been Audited to the 29th September 1848, with the under-mentioned exceptions.

Armagh	audited to	25th March 1848.
Athlone	"	"
Ballina	"	29th September 1846.
Ballinasloe	"	25th March 1848.
Ballinrobe	"	29th September 1847.
Banbridge	"	25th March 1848.
Boyle	"	"
Cahirciveen	"	"
Carrick-on-Shannon	"	29th September 1846.
Castlebar	"	"
Castlerea	"	25th March 1847.
Cavan	"	" 1848.
Clifden	"	—
Clogher	"	25th March 1848.
Clones	"	"
Cootehill	"	"
Cork	"	"
Dingle	"	—
Donegal	"	25th March 1848.
Dundalk	"	"
Edenderry	"	"
Ennis	"	"
Enniskillen	"	"
Ennistymon	"	"
Galway	"	29th September 1847.
Granard	"	25th March 1848.
Kanturk	"	"
Kenmare	"	29th September 1847.
Killarney	"	25th March 1848
Kilrush	"	"
Kinsale	"	"
Letterkenny	"	"
Lisburn	"	"
Lismore	"	"
Lisnaskea	"	"
Loughrea	"	29th September 1847.
Lowtherstown	"	25th March 1848.
Manor Hamilton	"	"
Middleton	"	"
Mohill	"	29th September 1846.
Nenagh	"	25th March 1848.
Newry	"	"
Roscommon	"	29th September 1847.
Roserea	"	25th March 1848.
Scariff	"	"
Skibbereen	"	29th September 1847.
Sligo	"	25th March 1848.
Swineford	"	"
Tipperary	"	"
Tralee	"	29th September 1847.
Tuam	"	"
Tullamore	"	25th March 1848.
Westport	"	"

Appendix G.

RETURN showing the Appointments and Changes of Relieving Officers in the under-mentioned Unions in the County of *Mayo*.

NAMES OF UNIONS.	RELIEVING OFFICERS.					Observations.
	Number originally Appointed in the Union.	Number subsequently Appointed.	Total Number Appointed.	Number Removed by Resignation or Dismissal.	Number now Acting in the Union.	
Ballina - - -	12	8	20	4	16	(a)
Ballinrobe - -	6	14	20	7	13	(b)
Castlebar - -	5	26	31	20	11	(c)
Swineford - -	6	10	16	5	11	(d)
Westport - -	6	15	21	11	10	(e)

Observations as to Resignations and Removals.

(a) Of those originally appointed, two were dismissed, viz. one for Belmullet Electoral Division, and one for the Electoral Divisions of Attymass and Kilgarvan; and two resigned, both of whom were for the Electoral Division of Crossmolina.

(b) Two Relieving Officers were dismissed, four resigned, and one died.

(c) Of the 26 subsequently appointed, 15 were Assistants. Of the Permanent Relieving Officers, four resigned, and one was dismissed; and of the Assistants, two resigned, and 12 were dismissed, leaving 10 Permanent and one Assistant Relieving Officer.

(d) The number originally appointed in October 1847 was six; this number being found insufficient, the number was increased to 12 in February 1848, one for each Electoral Division. In April 1848 one Relieving Officer was removed, and another appointed. In May three resigned, and three were appointed instead; and, in August last, one Relieving Officer having resigned, two Electoral Divisions were formed into one District, thereby reducing the number to 11 Relieving Officers.

(e) Of these, two died, two were dismissed, and seven resigned.

RETURN showing the NUMBER of ESTATES in the several POOR LAW UNIONS of *Ireland*, divided into 17 Classes, from under £. 50 to £. 5,000 and upwards; setting forth the Area, the Number of Person

E S

UNIONS.	Area in Statute Acres.	Estimate of the Extent of Land under Crops in 1847.	No. of Holdings in 1847.	No. of Persons in 1841.	Under £. 50 Value.		£. 50 and under £. 100.		£. 100 and under £. 200.		£. 200 and under £. 300.		£. 300 and under £. 400.		£. 400 and under £. 500.		£ 500 and under £. 600.		£. 600 and under £. 700.		£. 700 and under £. 800.		£. 800 and under £. 900.	
					No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
						£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.	
ABBEYLEIX	113,960	39,143	4,285	41,230	5	162	15	1,157	30	4,034	14	3,450	16	5,631	15	6,541	6	3,229	7	4,581	2	1,459	1	867
ANTRIM	116,247	43,987	3,936	49,168	1	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	302	2	854	2	1,063	1	605	1	745	-	-
ARDEE	96,159	49,647	3,323	42,348	5	156	17	1,290	23	3,464	25	6,141	25	8,421	12	5,293	8	4,303	13	8,403	10	7,671	6	5,104
ARMAGH	153,792	80,909	12,274	110,408	8	290	11	882	35	5,330	36	9,039	18	6,227	21	9,492	8	4,151	4	2,635	8	5,988	3	2,551
ATHLONE	185,058	48,930	9,143	72,168	30	959	59	4,383	70	9,821	39	9,791	28	9,765	23	10,439	19	10,390	3	2,003	8	5,853	5	4,204
ATHY	163,377	62,280	5,857	47,912	5	191	20	1,539	28	4,071	26	6,276	12	3,909	15	6,632	13	7,034	5	3,254	10	7,559	5	4,274
BAILIEBOROUGH	87,692	33,014	5,319	49,385	7	302	20	1,525	36	5,268	16	3,961	14	4,794	9	4,062	7	3,876	3	2,000	1	768	2	1,759
BALLINA	504,115	38,038	12,542	120,787	76	2,257	64	4,847	84	12,494	39	9,396	23	7,920	12	5,386	9	4,929	4	2,575	4	2,948	4	3,358
BALLINASLOE	311,391	64,838	13,002	99,026	29	937	56	4,115	66	9,727	41	10,058	41	14,118	24	10,656	18	9,905	17	10,988	12	9,023	10	8,356
BALLINROBE	263,104	33,573	12,423	85,031	22	654	46	3,293	50	7,045	38	9,527	26	8,978	14	6,340	12	6,599	5	3,356	5	3,727	1	808
BALLYCASTLE	102,646	19,185	2,653	26,020	7	266	8	560	14	2,083	13	3,274	9	3,135	3	1,302	9	4,906	6	3,793	3	2,294	-	-
BALLYMENA	161,049	41,475	6,698	74,022	1	39	6	423	25	3,766	11	2,715	12	4,123	7	3,124	5	2,852	4	2,647	3	2,241	3	2,467
BALLYMONEY	127,044	34,442	5,411	48,812	3	92	6	477	36	5,060	22	5,351	23	7,916	11	5,134	4	2,151	4	2,590	6	4,410	2	1,692
BALLYSHANNON	135,772	20,995	4,727	43,403	5	135	12	863	16	2,279	16	3,827	9	3,198	5	2,197	3	1,719	6	3,779	1	768	1	866
BALROTHERY	75,582	35,346	2,417	28,116	7	167	22	1,664	34	5,006	40	9,701	22	7,446	13	5,894	11	6,120	5	3,269	9	6,707	3	2,467
BALTINGLASS	149,523	39,148	3,514	40,687	1	44	-	-	4	591	6	1,560	4	1,365	9	4,124	5	2,584	9	5,613	3	2,316	6	5,064
BANBRIDGE	124,913	61,221	8,258	87,323	-	-	4	319	9	1,579	19	4,307	34	12,162	17	7,626	14	7,637	6	3,881	10	7,622	5	4,342
BANDON	153,920	49,525	5,355	81,772	-	-	8	595	18	2,902	23	5,512	13	4,471	15	6,836	8	4,286	6	4,022	5	3,734	3	2,554
BANTRY	178,732	13,242	5,398	56,165	11	326	11	838	10	1,597	7	1,850	5	1,719	1	407	3	1,607	1	633	3	2,287	2	1,749
BELFAST	47,752	19,942	1,621	100,992	4	215	2	169	4	572	7	1,771	3	1,023	6	2,582	8	4,337	11	6,941	4	2,890	2	1,742
BOYLE	166,379	27,617	8,063	71,355	13	439	25	1,806	45	6,507	24	5,773	16	5,625	11	5,059	5	2,776	5	3,183	7	5,261	5	4,225
CAHERCIVEEN	191,012	11,442	4,738	30,888	17	511	22	1,544	23	3,451	13	3,236	5	1,700	7	3,021	1	535	3	1,959	3	2,254	-	-
CALLAN	111,529	40,487	4,882	38,524	9	166	7	540	13	1,951	19	4,706	8	2,801	10	4,516	8	4,626	7	4,540	5	3,714	8	6,994
CARLOW	188,247	75,447	6,466	78,086	10	349	28	2,133	79	11,881	46	11,246	41	14,247	17	7,756	10	5,560	16	10,471	8	6,075	7	5,974
CARRICKMACROSS	60,593	31,059	5,357	39,729	-	-	2	190	8	1,078	6	1,487	2	731	-	-	1	555	1	614	-	-	-	-
CARRICK-ON-SHANNON	121,483	23,700	7,237	67,077	51	1,969	72	5,237	79	11,331	42	10,226	14	4,842	12	5,400	5	2,725	5	3,274	3	2,194	2	1,727
CARRICK-ON-SUIR	102,520	30,332	2,885	45,333	5	218	3	215	27	3,992	12	2,884	12	4,288	10	4,471	9	4,800	8	5,169	3	2,192	4	3,342
CASHEL	158,182	55,860	6,316	69,640	20	507	33	2,569	44	6,717	29	9,882	24	8,304	19	8,393	23	12,667	17	10,879	10	7,437	6	5,676
CASTLEBAR	160,687	20,421	8,505	61,063	16	475	26	2,001	42	6,121	14	3,492	8	2,773	10	4,512	2	1,098	4	2,722	5	3,717	2	1,714
CASTLEBLANEY	93,425	38,674	6,958	58,945	2	150	8	692	32	4,670	20	4,988	12	4,289	13	5,747	4	2,170	9	5,554	2	1,522	2	1,727
CASTLEDERG	91,787	14,921	2,383	21,368	1	15	6	470	9	1,351	9	2,134	9	3,219	3	1,378	4	2,260	1	642	1	729	2	1,667
CASTLEREAGH	261,179	36,664	12,549	92,864	19	652	28	2,075	59	8,620	30	7,248	26	8,952	14	6,200	9	4,924	11	7,156	9	6,720	3	2,573
CAVAN	180,442	61,440	9,163	97,271	24	842	79	5,768	103	15,149	61	14,728	27	9,305	27	12,058	6	3,294	7	4,523	9	6,728	3	2,597
CELBRIDGE	86,801	31,274	2,338	25,242	3	81	8	592	18	2,808	25	6,141	21	7,732	13	5,786	13	7,106	11	7,244	9	6,666	11	9,448
CLIFDEN	189,504	5,527	4,344	33,465	4	152	9	739	6	889	1	225	1	382	2	941	2	1,084	-	-	-	-	1	871
CLOGHELA	126,197	34,092	4,757	47,033	12	369	8	641	12	1,704	16	4,009	9	3,000	3	1,390	3	1,591	2	1,307	3	2,220	4	3,305
CLOGHER	101,227	27,887	4,580	39,801	15	497	15	1,130	35	5,286	21	5,292	4	1,179	6	2,683	3	1,619	2	1,263	2	1,431	1	892
CLONES	74,505	22,741	4,159	42,320	13	468	32	2,407	54	7,577	13	3,292	10	3,531	8	3,571	4	2,075	5	3,105	2	1,553	-	-
CLONMEL	90,106	24,607	2,500	39,993	8	217	12	936	18	2,611	12	3,005	6	2,167	7	3,131	11	6,094	4	2,648	6	4,517	-	-
COLERAINE	111,892	40,268	4,310	52,704	23	697	32	2,291	46	6,559	22	5,436	10	3,416	4	1,841	1	511	4	2,580	5	3,684	2	1,671
COOKSTOWN	96,515	34,530	5,829	46,455	1	24	14	1,222	22	3,214	19	4,975	8	2,749	5	2,307	5	2,653	6	3,941	3	2,179	-	-
COOTEHILL	106,222	42,650	8,168	67,178	10	377	33	2,604	40	5,664	33	8,036	14	4,897	6	2,735	8	4,424	4	2,542	6	4,491	2	1,785
CORK	146,116	52,679	4,909	156,657	-	-	12	934	19	3,081	18	4,513	19	6,801	27	12,054	14	7,553	11	7,159	8	5,916	13	10,891
DINGLE	123,894	7,125	2,645	35,512	7	180	7	522	15	2,120	9	2,067	9	3,169	3	1,325	2	1,052	2	1,249	2	1,563	2	1,667
DONEGAL	157,841	19,610	5,398	41,371	4	96	10	746	19	2,651	5	1,159	2	654	5	2,285	4	2,250	2	1,299	2	1,553	1	872
DOWNPATRICK	147,064	82,689	6,902	74,938	2	68	14	1,150	17	2,657	24	6,125	30	10,514	14	6,487	10	5,395	8	5,177	3	2,215	12	10,351
DROGHEDA	98,848	46,049	3,687	52,251	8	282	20	1,599	38	6,114	35	8,669	22	7,686	20	8,789	9	4,801	2	1,313	3	2,257	5	4,269
DUBLIN, NORTH	41,182	19,567	-	123,128	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No returns		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUBLIN, SOUTH	48,622	17,228	-	178,745	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	No returns		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DUNDALK	104,226	57,680	6,783	65,509	4	120	9	724	32	4,814	16	3,983	13	4,683	7	3,150	13	7,887	7	4,543	4	3,121	5	4,191
DUNFANAGHY	125,119	8,607	2,614	18,571	14	362	4	255	14	1,939	1	255	2	715	-	-	1	599	2	1,296	2	1,436	1	886
DUNGANNON	102,402	46,989	8,603	70,000	2	97	11	829	30	4,602	19	4,794	15	5,230	13	5,751	3	1,699	4	2,691	2	1,517	3	2,555
DUNGARVAN	151,852	41,952	5,068	68,642	6	131	6	399	26	3,840	17	4,340	9	3,287	9	3,930	5	2,811	5	3,221	2	1,474	2	1,736
DUNMANWAY	96,915	15,134	1,647	30,527	10	327	8	582	27	3,941	23	5,560	19	6,508	8	3,650	4	2,139	4	2,674	2	1,510	2	1,655
DUNSHAUGHLIN	108,317	37,293	1,845	20,985	17	642	23	1,867	46	6,672	40	9,538	37	12,878	29	12,911	9	5,142	12	7,587	2	1,514	8	6,790
EDENDERRY	169,845	44,398	2,681	34,679	9	331	10	848	28	4,194	30	7,711	13	4,345	15	6,765	11	6,153	5	3,221	5	3,740	4	3,451
ENNIS	212,726	40,440	8,784	77,840	49	1,610	99	7,252	98	13,641	55	13,486	24	8,111	16	7,160	15	8,159	4	2,637	7	5,118	5	4,201
ENNISCORTHY	199,148	74,839	7,088	61,652	14	447	41	3,322	84	12,910	39	9,379	27	9,467	22	9,924	16	8,822	11	7,286	4	3,009	10	8,623
ENNISKILLEN	229,184	43,175	9,108	81,534	27	913	52	4,002	58	8,445	30	7,667	11	3,962	10	4,465	11	6,024	6	3,839	3	2,260	4	3,401
ENNISTYMON	174,839	20,409	5,729	49,935	17	525	18	1,348	38	5,512	25	6,098	9	2,993	10	4,552	9	4,872	3	1,927	-	-	2	1,693
FERMOY	205,801	68,121	5,942	92,353	9	310	12	848	31	4,711	23	5,840	30	10,728	24	10,798	12	6,740	7	4,586	6	4,378	6	5,079
GALWAY	302,859	24,088	8,593	88,971	15	342	21	1,568	32	4,168	15	3,591	13	4,532	10	4,514	6	3,235	6	4,039	1	702	3	2,582
GLENTIES	260,578	27,493	6,358	43,571	19	394	7	587	18	2,514	1	212	2	705	4	1,791	4	2,181	1	621	1	795	1	806
GOREY	129,854	50,920	4,207	39,054	6	267	6	469	35	5,179	20	4,783	16	5,782	10	4,419	7	3,808	3	1,948	3	2,292	1	864
GORT	128,941	22,550	5,417	43,543	16	482	25	1,763	41	5,884	23	5,542	11	3,715	5	2,210	6	3,270	3	1,890	3	2,245	2	1,747
GORTIN	111,355	19,138	2,332	18,747	6	229	4	268	8	1,268	6	1,481	1	349	1	480	2	1,070	3	1,890	-	-	-	-
GRANARD	132,631	38,693	5,913	55,130	12	339	21	1,662	41	5,758	32	7,653	22	7,649	18	7,968	14	7,543	6	3,916	1	729	4	3,486
INISHOWEN	159,322	27,111	6,252	43,569	9	266	27	1,936	37	5,009	25	6,463	10	3,580	5	2,274	2	1,086	5	3,215	2	1,479	-	-

s according to the Census of 1841, the Number of Holdings, and the Value of each Class of Estate according to the Poor Law Valuation.

TATES.

£. 900 and under £. 1,000.		£. 1,000 and under £. 1,500.		£. 1,500 and under £. 2,000.		£. 2,000 and under £. 3,000.		£. 3,000 and under £. 4,000.		£. 4,000 and under £. 5,000.		£. 5,000 and upwards.		Value of Lands, the Proprietors' Names of which were not Returned.	TOTAL.		UNIONS.
No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.		No.	Value.	
	£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.			£.	
1	989	5	6,254	6	11,216	4	9,101	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	7,410	69	128	66,150	ABBEYLEIX.
2	1,892	- -	- -	1	1,547	5	11,837	6	21,164	3	13,219	6	48,074	- -	31	101,327	ANTRIM.
4	3,778	13	16,313	4	6,895	5	11,686	- -	- -	1	4,522	- -	- -	- -	171	93,440	ARDEE.
4	3,851	16	18,863	6	10,575	15	35,486	2	7,303	4	17,320	3	34,131	316	202	174,430	ARMAGH.
1	970	5	5,753	5	8,098	1	2,034	1	3,245	- -	- -	- -	- -	10,035	297	97,743	ATHLONE.
1	919	9	10,270	5	8,452	4	10,085	2	7,260	2	9,465	2	11,713	- -	164	102,903	ATHY.
1	999	3	3,282	2	3,578	1	2,013	- -	- -	- -	- -	2	13,640	539	124	52,366	BAILIEBOROUGH.
4	3,711	12	14,536	6	10,068	1	2,047	- -	- -	2	9,313	- -	- -	- -	344	95,785	BALLINA.
8	7,671	16	18,511	5	8,834	5	11,389	- -	- -	1	4,034	1	10,036	3,171	350	151,529	BALLINASLOE.
2	1,875	7	7,992	7	12,351	2	4,464	1	3,413	1	4,343	- -	- -	2,065	239	86,830	BALLINROBE.
5	4,708	1	1,042	2	3,582	2	5,377	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2,487	82	38,809	BALLYCASTLE.
3	2,775	9	11,291	5	8,561	9	21,912	3	10,192	1	4,074	2	14,965	423	109	98,590	BALLYMENA.
2	1,847	6	7,629	8	13,192	4	9,384	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	5,084	- -	138	72,009	BALLYMONEY.
1	908	3	3,522	4	6,749	- -	- -	- -	- -	3	13,484	1	7,303	- -	86	51,597	BALLYSHANNON.
2	1,874	14	16,933	5	8,326	3	6,866	1	3,765	1	4,019	- -	- -	5,073	192	95,297	BALROTHERY.
2	1,906	19	23,632	6	10,362	3	7,688	4	13,550	1	4,089	1	6,022	- -	83	90,510	BALTINGLASS.
2	1,894	13	16,095	5	8,380	11	26,183	- -	- -	2	8,531	2	12,732	- -	153	123,290	BANBRIDGE.
2	1,954	7	8,554	2	3,400	3	7,066	5	16,639	1	4,759	1	8,019	50,687	120	135,990	BANDON.
- -	- -	3	3,664	2	3,310	3	7,820	1	3,595	- -	- -	1	5,590	5,000	64	41,992	BANTRY.
3	2,895	5	6,379	8	13,124	11	27,613	3	9,485	1	4,888	2	15,526	170,000	84	272,152	BELFAST.
4	3,786	7	9,088	2	3,440	1	2,838	2	6,896	- -	- -	1	10,263	3,978	173	80,943	BOYLE.
- -	- -	1	1,279	1	1,589	1	2,163	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	118	97	23,360	CAHERCIVEEN.
1	904	8	9,532	12	20,422	6	14,197	- -	- -	1	4,871	- -	- -	- -	122	84,390	CALLAN.
9	8,441	21	25,554	8	13,761	10	23,274	3	10,654	- -	- -	2	19,294	2,000	315	178,670	CARLOW.
2	1,937	- -	- -	6	10,596	6	16,024	3	9,779	1	4,770	- -	- -	- -	38	47,761	CARRICKMACROSS.
2	1,966	6	6,830	1	1,584	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	297	59,305	CARRICK-ON-SHANNON.
7	6,526	12	12,551	5	8,509	7	16,511	- -	- -	2	9,011	- -	- -	2,424	126	87,103	CARRICK-ON-SUIR.
7	6,727	15	18,835	4	6,454	3	7,599	1	3,032	2	9,454	- -	- -	5,564	267	130,096	CASHEL.
4	3,694	5	5,813	2	3,699	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	4,077	- -	- -	4,233	141	50,141	CASTLEBAR.
1	955	3	3,735	- -	- -	2	4,927	5	16,489	- -	- -	1	6,413	- -	116	64,028	CASTLEBLANEY.
- -	- -	2	2,695	3	5,245	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	50	21,805	CASTLEDERG.
1	924	12	15,805	7	12,180	7	18,418	- -	- -	1	4,828	1	6,553	- -	237	113,828	CASTLEREAGH.
1	956	9	10,413	4	8,878	4	9,854	1	3,787	- -	- -	1	5,246	6,429	366	120,555	CAVAN.
2	1,915	15	18,347	3	5,703	7	17,385	1	3,306	3	13,284	2	16,641	- -	165	130,125	CELBRIDGE.
1	967	- -	- -	1	1,788	1	2,434	1	3,301	- -	- -	1	5,686	3,000	31	22,459	CLIFDEN.
- -	- -	6	6,961	3	4,963	4	10,152	- -	- -	1	4,530	2	15,222	1,440	88	62,804	CLOGHEEN.
- -	- -	3	3,879	2	3,303	3	6,918	2	6,595	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	114	41,967	CLOGHER.
- -	- -	5	5,720	1	1,691	2	4,563	1	3,614	1	4,314	1	5,866	- -	152	53,347	CLONES.
4	3,734	8	9,925	5	8,632	3	7,545	3	10,255	- -	- -	- -	- -	26,505	107	91,922	CLONMEL.
1	965	12	14,920	6	10,762	4	9,605	1	3,670	2	8,290	- -	- -	- -	175	76,808	COLERAINE.
2	1,913	8	10,192	1	1,500	4	8,456	1	3,141	- -	- -	1	8,069	- -	100	56,535	COOKSTOWN.
1	948	8	9,538	2	3,463	2	5,101	1	3,070	- -	- -	2	13,605	116	172	73,396	COOTEHILL.
4	3,744	18	22,207	6	10,579	11	27,138	6	20,258	1	4,976	2	15,413	197,740	189	360,957	CORK.
3	2,809	3	3,763	2	3,726	1	2,919	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	719	67	28,850	DINGLE.
- -	- -	2	2,430	4	6,751	2	4,310	1	3,901	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	63	30,957	DONEGAL.
3	2,810	16	19,248	8	14,533	8	20,363	5	17,574	4	17,363	3	26,182	- -	181	168,212	DOWNPATRICK.
7	6,647	20	24,070	3	5,466	6	14,371	1	3,019	- -	- -	- -	- -	33,220	199	132,572	DROGHEDA.
- -	- No returns -		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	369,745	- -	369,745	DUBLIN, NORTH.
- -	- No returns -		- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	569,940	- -	569,940	DUBLIN, SOUTH.
1	973	13	14,990	6	10,200	1	2,243	2	6,495	- -	- -	2	15,207	18,000	135	105,324	DUNDALK.
- -	- -	1	1,444	1	1,584	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	43	10,771	DUNFANAGHY.
1	940	11	13,561	4	7,188	1	2,765	6	20,903	- -	- -	2	15,130	- -	127	90,252	DUNGANNON.
- -	- -	4	4,498	4	6,958	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	4,750	- -	- -	50,169	96	91,544	DUNGARVAN.
2	1,825	5	5,667	1	1,929	- -	- -	1	3,203	- -	- -	- -	- -	2,414	116	43,584	DUNMANWAY.
9	8,494	10	12,827	9	15,218	7	16,304	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	24	258	118,408	DUNSHAUGHLIN.
4	3,884	8	9,946	2	3,502	7	16,048	3	10,768	1	4,362	1	6,062	- -	156	95,331	EDENDERRY.
- -	- -	6	7,298	2	3,122	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	4,022	- -	- -	7,366	381	93,185	ENNIS.
4	3,758	8	9,688	1	1,676	1	2,934	1	3,776	1	4,744	2	12,405	16,244	286	128,414	ENNISCORTHY.
5	4,807	8	9,622	7	12,436	1	2,002	2	7,267	2	8,399	1	6,009	- -	238	95,520	ENNISKILLEN.
2	1,870	3	3,825	3	5,352	5	11,828	1	3,626	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	145	56,021	ENNISTYMON.
10	9,626	15	17,992	7	11,434	11	25,960	2	7,141	1	4,213	2	20,540	2,126	208	153,050	FERMOY.
2	1,910	8	9,278	5	8,411	7	19,068	- -	- -	- -	- -	2	32,207	106	146	100,253	GALWAY.
2	1,809	3	3,881	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	63	16,296	GLENTIES.
3	2,900	7	8,440	6	10,524	6	13,754	2	6,649	2	9,517	2	12,112	- -	135	93,707	GOREY.
1	970	7	9,080	3	4,895	2	5,059	1	3,806	- -	- -	- -	- -	72	149	52,630	GORT.
1	945	2	2,157	2	3,473	1	2,123	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	37	15,743	GORTIN.
2	1,990	14	16,493	2	3,589	4	9,869	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	7,946	- -	194	86,590	GRANARD.
1	907	4	4,859	2	3,491	1	2,034	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	130	36,599	INISHOWEN.

(continued)

RETURN showing the Number of Estates in the sev

UNIONS.	Area in Statute Acres.	Estimate of the Extent of Land under Crops in 1847.	No. of Holdings in 1847.	No. of Persons in 1841.	Under £.50 Value.		£.50 and under £.100.		£.100 and under £.200.		£.200 and under £.300.		£.300 and under £.400.		£.400 and under £.500.	
					No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.
						£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.
KANTURK	256,892	54,867	2,777	85,861	1	48	16	1,228	37	5,237	32	8,110	28	9,647	16	7,162
KELLS	115,942	36,596	3,622	45,282	1	49	6	414	20	2,735	12	3,088	13	4,456	17	7,700
KENMARE	217,815	11,864	3,654	33,656	9	189	3	197	8	1,128	3	849	6	2,218	3	1,346
KILKEEL	81,804	18,465	3,670	28,638	- -	- -	7	568	15	2,017	4	1,066	6	2,093	4	1,691
KILKENNY	275,890	105,490	10,500	120,082	3	118	18	1,374	41	6,068	49	11,921	34	11,646	22	9,827
KILLARNEY	232,768	23,732	4,684	53,345	5	200	4	264	12	1,999	9	2,195	11	3,827	4	1,798
KILMALLOCK	168,021	50,496	5,880	75,687	22	605	41	2,996	53	7,384	62	15,440	48	16,818	27	11,892
KILRUSH	178,935	42,627	8,743	82,353	6	245	17	1,309	38	5,211	17	4,055	13	4,454	10	4,418
KINSALE	81,950	31,339	2,339	41,342	7	166	29	2,231	37	5,788	32	7,891	13	4,619	18	8,228
LARNE	117,622	27,276	3,298	38,758	3	117	5	343	8	1,325	9	2,240	1	377	2	896
LETTERKENNY	102,327	19,672	2,778	25,921	7	220	6	428	28	4,055	14	3,521	8	2,802	7	3,197
LIMERICK	185,632	63,236	8,943	132,067	56	1,655	50	3,434	76	11,477	59	14,544	37	12,777	24	10,549
LISBURN	119,756	60,073	243	75,444	2	26	- -	- -	3	401	2	501	6	2,199	5	2,137
LISMORE	113,506	26,816	2,694	38,617	2	84	9	685	17	2,441	12	2,827	6	2,024	7	3,056
LISNASKEA	98,593	24,997	3,978	37,920	25	827	35	2,553	39	5,417	9	2,162	7	2,496	7	3,163
LISTOWEL	208,964	45,375	6,825	78,756	14	323	19	1,454	41	6,326	27	6,708	21	7,234	18	7,882
LONDONDERRY	139,360	49,881	4,417	64,740	8	242	9	750	28	4,144	11	2,637	14	4,997	8	3,668
LONGFORD	197,692	55,885	9,976	87,757	31	1,036	56	4,138	69	10,399	45	10,959	21	7,246	14	6,195
LOUGHREA	198,700	38,907	8,031	71,774	55	1,477	67	4,951	68	9,730	45	11,106	18	6,264	6	2,625
LOWTHERSTOWN	75,668	23,471	3,772	34,963	6	188	18	1,317	28	3,859	13	3,122	8	2,758	7	3,174
LURGAN	79,201	46,951	6,149	71,128	3	103	6	400	34	5,008	13	3,186	12	4,071	6	2,663
MACROOM	202,942	39,369	3,787	58,818	20	658	22	1,628	63	9,239	49	12,078	36	12,873	14	6,309
MAGHERAFELT	155,904	53,977	8,937	80,816	2	87	7	524	19	2,883	17	4,232	11	3,850	8	3,718
MALLOW	149,379	45,336	3,478	63,282	2	71	6	467	38	5,760	43	11,079	28	9,759	27	12,031
MANORHAMILTON	151,452	22,232	5,682	45,990	11	285	15	994	21	3,157	16	3,795	12	4,060	3	1,395
MIDDLETON	140,090	58,717	4,472	78,428	4	91	43	3,337	41	6,384	24	5,630	27	9,219	20	8,747
MILFORD	110,051	21,503	4,415	38,108	11	318	15	1,090	25	3,571	15	3,613	8	2,912	4	1,715
MOHILL	135,216	28,617	8,235	68,859	18	478	37	2,790	48	7,134	22	5,588	15	5,310	6	2,600
MONAGHAN	112,708	47,972	8,295	69,559	19	725	72	5,138	60	8,614	38	9,418	18	6,171	12	5,173
MOUNTMELLICK	201,881	57,531	7,805	67,874	7	163	15	1,148	34	5,053	16	3,993	9	3,170	6	2,720
MULLINGAR	247,038	68,480	7,913	73,272	11	356	24	1,938	43	6,602	31	7,505	39	13,544	23	10,449
NAAS	207,377	60,129	5,433	52,228	13	376	31	2,444	67	9,394	50	12,509	27	9,435	19	9,092
NAVAN	94,647	37,399	2,844	35,831	5	133	7	531	17	2,555	18	4,548	9	3,157	7	3,229
NENAGH	230,689	64,593	9,164	89,874	40	1,060	57	4,183	84	11,584	59	14,493	34	11,683	20	9,053
NEWCASTLE	171,862	38,722	5,626	60,007	4	72	10	714	41	6,396	35	8,889	25	8,381	16	7,054
NEWROSS	205,792	72,511	8,295	74,923	8	199	22	1,729	28	4,036	26	6,609	19	6,680	18	7,945
NEWRY	137,826	57,997	10,746	95,541	1	38	8	700	43	6,682	21	5,228	17	5,921	9	4,086
NEWTOWNARDS	93,806	52,400	4,458	60,165	5	72	1	94	7	1,243	12	3,031	14	4,931	11	4,932
NEWTOWNLIMAVADY	149,861	39,426	3,665	39,058	8	256	7	527	22	3,123	12	3,332	9	3,218	6	2,633
OLDCASTLE	104,957	42,470	4,654	48,373	4	138	10	761	19	2,768	18	4,469	16	5,653	12	5,504
OMAGH	175,193	52,479	6,947	69,099	4	91	15	1,174	38	5,732	20	4,867	17	5,941	13	5,797
PARSONSTOWN	250,871	66,636	9,097	76,528	15	442	32	2,317	49	7,043	30	7,450	25	8,686	13	5,704
RATHDOWN	55,887	17,475	2,259	44,214	1	44	2	156	5	710	2	478	2	728	- -	- -
RATHDRUM	230,591	56,094	4,109	56,709	2	84	11	860	25	3,830	22	5,452	24	8,364	20	8,852
RATHKEALE	154,108	57,253	6,552	68,174	6	217	13	1,002	26	4,326	30	7,582	21	7,347	18	8,018
ROSCOMMON	171,587	35,369	9,289	83,437	26	865	53	3,918	50	6,908	40	9,762	27	9,192	17	7,598
ROSCREA	163,583	45,051	6,157	63,016	18	453	25	1,779	45	6,653	31	7,836	26	9,235	24	10,725
SCARRIFF	168,048	23,461	6,645	53,563	11	345	10	751	25	3,545	20	4,910	16	5,645	4	1,773
SHILLELAGH	106,337	33,891	3,359	34,800	- -	- -	1	55	7	1,002	- -	- -	2	755	2	904
SKIBBEREEN	201,085	35,617	7,464	104,508	30	986	56	4,347	88	12,612	63	15,307	23	7,834	16	7,089
SLIGO	252,616	46,977	15,762	111,054	13	473	55	3,946	91	13,217	53	13,382	34	11,809	18	8,167
STRABANE	134,395	57,539	4,508	58,883	5	111	12	974	29	4,196	15	3,841	19	6,480	2	869
STRANORLAR	121,136	23,723	3,152	25,786	12	407	22	1,532	19	2,864	7	1,550	5	1,687	1	433
SWINEFORD	207,964	29,449	10,415	73,529	11	325	31	2,153	42	6,058	38	9,443	8	2,763	3	1,408
THURLES	167,236	52,245	7,602	71,976	17	431	17	1,255	50	7,132	36	8,975	19	6,639	27	12,167
TIPPERARY	183,670	53,936	7,479	79,516	7	216	22	1,700	48	7,191	36	8,826	32	11,155	22	10,008
TRALEE	179,698	28,486	3,695	56,151	2	85	13	892	19	2,812	15	3,561	10	3,511	14	6,227
TRIM	113,173	39,714	3,508	34,411	2	61	3	177	17	2,528	27	6,658	11	3,851	10	4,585
TUAM	211,804	39,927	9,461	74,974	24	708	30	2,174	62	9,186	36	8,663	18	6,334	16	7,312
TULLAMORE	157,445	48,112	6,279	53,905	10	337	14	1,024	31	4,411	18	4,369	20	6,959	15	6,844
WATERFORD	156,963	44,214	5,258	84,360	13	345	26	2,125	92	13,501	50	12,281	36	12,570	23	10,267
WESTPORT	330,176	16,168	11,472	77,952	8	205	5	344	14	1,835	4	1,170	6	2,081	3	1,341
WEXFORD	126,826	52,870	5,509	53,401	31	973	70	5,028	84	11,955	34	8,250	31	10,723	12	5,409
TOTAL	20,262,641	5,238,575	765,003	8,174,566	1,515	46,770	2,724	203,675	4,614	675,018	3,094	763,637	2,127	740,034	1,492	668,618

Poor Law Boundary Commission Office, Custom-house, Dublin,
22d March 1849.

eral Poor Law Unions of *Ireland*, divided into 17 Classes, from under £. 50 to £. 5,000 and upwards, &c.—*continued.*

ESTATES.

£. 500 and under £. 600.		£. 600 and under £. 700.		£. 700 and under £. 800.		£. 800 and under £. 900.		£. 900 and under £. 1,000.		£. 1,000 and under £. 1,500.		£. 1,500 and under £. 2,000.		£. 2,000 and under £. 3,000.		£ 3,000 and under £. 4,000.		£. 4,000 and under £. 5,000.		£. 5,000 and upwards.		Value of Lands, the Proprietors' Names of which were not Returned.	Total.		UNIONS.
No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.	No.	Value.		No.	Value.	
	£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.		£.	£.		£.	
14	7,583	11	7,091	8	6,041	6	5,093	3	2,871	13	15,443	4	6,773	5	11,869	1	3,629	- -	- -	- -	- -	3,818	195	101,643	KANTURK.
14	7,767	6	3,949	10	7,468	3	2,497	6	5,658	15	19,948	10	17,784	6	14,452	1	3,301	3	13,829	1	8,575	- -	144	123,670	KELLS.
2	1,053	2	1,360	- -	- -	1	853	- -	- -	3	3,209	2	3,251	1	2,145	2	6,698	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	45	24,496	KENMARE.
1	556	1	692	3	2,218	2	1,646	- -	- -	2	2,338	5	8,670	2	5,536	2	7,070	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	54	36,161	KILKEEL.
28	15,324	10	6,467	14	10,369	5	4,219	7	6,633	29	34,777	12	20,546	10	23,993	- -	- -	2	9,685	1	12,411	54,582	285	239,960	KILKENNY.
1	527	6	3,945	- -	- -	2	1,742	3	2,735	5	6,136	5	9,201	1	2,784	3	9,781	2	9,088	3	24,163	76	76	80,461	KILLARNEY.
23	12,619	19	12,254	14	10,457	5	4,205	7	6,590	23	26,646	13	21,604	4	9,040	4	13,092	1	4,084	- -	- -	- -	366	175,726	KILMALLOCK.
11	5,975	5	3,104	6	4,475	3	2,518	2	1,976	8	10,244	- -	- -	1	2,134	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	7,848	- -	138	57,966	KILRUSH.
8	4,456	3	2,037	1	794	2	1,616	4	3,821	7	8,402	2	3,612	2	4,434	2	6,591	- -	- -	- -	- -	8,962	167	73,648	KINSALE.
3	1,669	4	2,548	2	1,445	4	3,273	- -	- -	5	6,330	1	1,748	4	10,082	2	7,496	2	8,701	4	23,617	53	59	72,260	LARNE.
1	501	2	1,282	3	2,228	2	1,722	2	1,953	2	2,751	1	1,637	1	2,496	1	3,040	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	85	31,833	LETTERKENNY.
11	5,961	20	12,915	8	5,959	8	6,815	5	4,707	10	12,331	5	8,709	5	12,843	3	10,584	- -	- -	- -	- -	69,252	377	204,512	LIMERICK.
1	507	2	1,370	3	2,906	4	3,486	- -	- -	7	7,885	5	8,690	5	13,026	9	31,010	5	26,598	5	32,587	- -	65	133,329	LISBURN.
3	1,679	9	5,790	1	766	- -	- -	2	1,897	6	6,628	2	3,617	2	5,423	1	3,863	3	14,517	1	10,443	771	83	66,511	LISMORE.
4	2,249	1	671	3	2,230	1	849	3	2,922	2	2,441	2	3,498	3	7,544	2	7,389	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	143	46,411	LISNASKEA.
10	5,384	8	5,168	7	5,214	4	3,352	1	918	21	27,194	5	9,036	2	5,085	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	5,864	- -	199	97,142	LISTOWEL.
4	2,116	2	1,339	4	2,908	5	4,364	4	3,760	17	21,127	3	5,155	4	9,520	2	6,015	1	4,693	1	35,612	- -	125	113,047	LONDONDERRY.
16	8,746	1	663	6	4,489	8	6,793	2	1,880	11	13,288	4	7,354	8	19,329	3	10,212	- -	- -	1	11,469	- -	296	124,196	LONGFORD.
7	3,814	7	4,587	5	3,805	1	853	3	2,865	9	11,820	1	1,552	2	4,230	1	3,658	- -	- -	2	13,796	1,513	297	88,646	LOUGHREA.
3	1,568	3	1,967	3	2,229	2	1,643	- -	- -	6	7,157	- -	- -	2	5,324	1	3,072	1	4,783	- -	- -	1,631	101	43,792	LOWTHERSTOWN.
3	1,560	7	4,551	1	787	2	1,756	1	911	6	7,967	3	4,779	3	7,704	8	26,460	1	4,492	2	15,828	244	111	92,470	LURGAN.
12	6,508	6	3,803	12	8,938	2	1,693	4	3,756	11	13,154	3	5,108	- -	- -	1	3,330	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	255	89,075	MACROOM.
- -	- -	3	1,968	3	2,316	2	1,698	3	2,802	13	15,116	6	10,369	7	17,187	1	3,275	- -	- -	1	5,236	- -	103	75,261	MAGHERAFELT.
16	8,750	7	4,634	11	8,187	5	4,139	5	4,810	11	12,670	7	12,144	2	4,961	2	6,396	1	4,389	1	5,576	7,042	212	122,865	MALLOW.
3	1,574	2	1,362	4	2,877	1	892	1	930	6	7,422	4	7,293	1	2,516	1	3,779	1	4,610	- -	- -	395	102	47,336	MANORHAMILTON.
19	10,336	10	6,318	5	3,752	3	2,639	5	4,802	15	18,332	5	8,880	10	23,724	2	7,287	1	4,258	4	39,418	- -	238	163,154	MIDDLETON.
- -	- -	2	1,357	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	974	3	3,910	1	1,514	3	6,915	1	3,329	- -	- -	- -	- -	60	89	31,278	MILFORD.
5	2,814	6	3,942	3	2,342	3	2,549	2	1,829	6	7,067	5	8,219	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	4,071	- -	- -	2,186	177	58,919	MOHILL.
9	4,836	6	4,052	5	3,727	6	5,061	2	1,936	7	9,133	4	7,298	2	4,722	1	3,051	1	4,357	1	10,881	- -	263	94,293	MONAGHAN.
7	3,827	8	5,202	7	5,272	2	1,696	5	4,818	7	8,231	6	10,156	4	10,672	2	6,518	2	8,534	1	6,024	204	138	87,401	MOUNTMELLICK.
16	8,795	26	16,957	9	6,664	10	8,436	11	10,430	27	32,604	10	17,563	10	24,591	2	6,788	1	4,954	- -	- -	9,639	293	187,815	MULLINGAR.
16	9,334	12	7,787	13	9,883	5	4,137	4	3,819	10	11,929	6	9,894	7	17,558	3	10,200	1	4,729	- -	- -	10,176	284	142,696	NAAS.
14	7,499	6	3,917	5	3,692	7	5,832	4	3,703	18	20,962	4	7,348	8	19,583	3	9,654	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	132	96,343	NAVAN.
9	4,805	4	2,463	6	4,516	6	4,948	3	2,960	9	10,608	4	6,780	3	6,857	2	7,409	- -	- -	1	6,565	10,271	341	120,238	NENAGH.
13	7,167	11	7,033	9	6,858	11	9,170	4	3,745	7	8,771	4	6,856	4	9,075	- -	- -	- -	- -	2	16,086	- -	196	106,267	NEWCASTLE.
14	7,708	4	2,600	4	2,903	4	3,407	5	4,750	10	11,944	4	6,559	3	7,372	1	3,982	3	14,443	1	9,543	3,308	174	105,717	NEWROSS.
7	3,818	6	3,938	5	3,727	5	4,294	4	3,749	5	4,777	2	3,370	6	13,889	4	13,653	1	4,019	4	44,106	3,913	148	129,908	NEWRY.
13	7,263	9	5,764	4	2,947	3	2,605	6	5,715	7	8,604	5	8,267	4	10,245	5	17,739	3	13,448	1	6,274	14,000	110	117,174	NEWTOWNARDS.
- -	- -	4	2,585	2	1,437	1	884	1	983	3	3,843	2	3,805	8	18,820	3	10,065	1	4,185	1	5,810	- -	90	65,506	NEWTOWNLIMAVADY.
7	3,799	6	3,987	6	4,445	7	5,939	2	1,880	6	7,542	3	4,811	1	2,955	3	10,346	2	8,544	1	5,616	- -	123	79,157	OLDCASTLE.
11	5,972	8	5,180	7	5,322	- -	- -	1	954	8	9,631	2	3,621	6	13,231	2	6,571	- -	- -	- -	- -	961	152	75,045	OMAGH.
7	3,888	8	5,123	12	8,970	7	6,013	4	3,698	10	12,439	7	12,277	4	9,713	- -	- -	- -	- -	1	11,384	- -	224	105,147	PARSONSTOWN.
- -	- -	4	2,548	2	1,447	2	1,659	2	1,853	5	6,348	2	3,736	4	11,015	5	17,333	- -	- -	4	39,286	62,775	42	150,116	RATHDOWN.
11	5,995	8	5,169	5	3,745	6	5,049	1	903	13	16,635	4	6,811	4	9,429	4	14,021	1	4,392	6	44,694	5,536	167	149,821	RATHDRUM.
18	9,823	15	9,684	9	6,613	7	5,966	6	5,598	14	16,382	6	10,386	5	11,235	4	14,023	1	4,920	1	6,863	- -	200	129,985	RATHKEALE.
9	5,014	4	2,442	5	3,719	3	2,570	2	1,868	4	4,668	5	8,945	4	9,271	2	6,704	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	251	83,444	ROSCOMMON.
15	8,088	5	3,061	8	6,050	5	4,279	5	4,839	7	8,085	5	8,798	1	2,788	1	3,374	- -	- -	2	15,799	80	223	101,922	ROSCREA.
3	1,637	6	3,762	2	1,414	3	2,541	1	907	2	2,503	2	3,085	1	2,859	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	979	106	36,656	SCARRIFF.
2	1,056	2	1,332	4	2,970	1	876	- -	- -	2	2,517	4	7,132	4	9,638	4	12,873	1	4,635	3	17,659	- -	39	63,404	SHILLELAGH.
16	8,644	11	7,064	5	3,769	6	5,231	3	2,860	6	7,213	2	3,239	1	2,149	2	6,557	- -	- -	- -	- -	3,199	328	98,100	SKIBBEREEN.
12	6,464	12	7,748	4	3,042	4	3,323	2	1,946	7	7,996	5	8,562	3	7,708	3	9,988	2	8,948	1	5,093	25,994	319	147,806	SLIGO.
5	2,752	5	3,207	2	1,515	1	826	- -	- -	11	13,733	3	4,838	7	17,870	3	10,581	- -	- -	1	6,454	543	120	78,790	STRABANE.
3	1,688	5	3,258	- -	- -	4	3,396	2	1,887	4	5,071	2	3,582	1	2,028	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	87	29,383	STRANORLAR.
4	2,150	3	1,979	2	1,507	3	2,557	1	981	5	5,837	2	3,238	1	2,094	1	3,473	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	155	45,966	SWINEFORD.
12	6,507	7	4,558	10	7,530	7	5,952	10	9,559	6	7,289	3	5,541	2	4,472	- -	- -	1	4,584	- -	- -	8,677	224	101,268	THURLES.
15	8,140	9	5,894	13	9,675	8	6,715	5	4,732	15	19,431	10	17,233	5	12,805	4	12,996	- -	- -	1	6,646	3,649	252	147,012	TIPPERARY.
3	1,639	6	3,969	2	1,458	2	1,656	3	2,785	10	12,231	4	7,165	3	7,428	1	3,082	- -	- -	1	12,228	14,024	108	84,753	TRALEE.
7	3,763	11	7,437	5	3,752	2	1,783	10	9,470	12	14,600	5	8,738	2	5,283	1	3,110	- -	- -	4	23,908	- -	129	99,704	TRIM.
7	3,824	15	9,677	8	5,843	3	2,547	4	3,764	8	10,120	1	1,538	1	2,926	1	3,345	- -	- -	- -	- -	6,161	234	84,122	TUAM.
8	4,556	7	4,567	3	2,274	1	815	2	1,836	5	5,750	6	10,013	2	4,831	2	6,079	2	8,154	- -	- -	5,219	146	78,038	TULLAMORE.
20	11,013	14	9,172	7	5,155	7	5,868	7	6,647	22	27,490	8	12,767	3	7,793	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	52,799	328	189,793	WATERFORD.
1	568	1	616	2	1,474	- -	- -	1	958	3	3,485	2	3,276	2	5,420	1	3,960	1	4,795	1	7,542	20	55	39,090	WESTPORT.
6	3,194	10	6,529	12	8,870	7	5,967	6	5,698	6	7,461	4	6,959	2	4,737	1	3,816	1	4,853	1	6,379	7,128	318	113,929	WEXFORD.
1,041	569,938	817	529,503	621	464,442	467	396,421	372	352,523	1,101	1,336,987	527	909,729	475	1,156,465	216	737,234	103	466,127	131	1,049,599	1,973,399	21,437	13,040,119	- - TOTAL.

Appendix I.

EMIGRATION.

CHARACTER of IRISH EMIGRANTS.

(Extracted.)

The following Extracts from the Minutes of Evidence before the Select Committee of the House of Lords on Colonization from Ireland, illustrate the question of the fitness and success of the Irish Emigrant, compared with that of Emigrants from other Countries.

Mr. *H. Perly*, Examined. (Report for 1847.)

164. Is there any disinclination on the part of the population of New Brunswick to receive Irish emigrants?

I think I may safely say none, except a few of the old inhabitants; they sometimes express a fear that the whole of the colony may become Irish.

165. What has been the conduct of the Irish emigrants upon the whole; has it been peaceable and orderly, or the reverse?

I think I may answer that question in the affirmative. The Irish have conducted themselves very well in New Brunswick.

Mr. *Uniacke*, Examined. (Nova Scotia is spoken of.)

458. You have spoken of some of these emigrants being Irish; how do the Irish emigrants, generally speaking, conduct themselves in the colony?

Very well. Those who settle in the interior, who assume voluntarily forest life, and become settlers, are a remarkably well-conducted class of people. Of course, among those hanging about the towns, forming a large population of Irishmen, there are some worthless, who get a worse name for the whole than they deserve.

459. In the event of the condition of the colony requiring and having the means of sustaining a larger number of emigrants than are at present introduced into a social state there, do you think there would be any objection to a considerable number of these being Irish?

I do not think there would be a provincial distaste to it. Of course there are persons in every community that have dislikes. Men of very strict Piotestant and Dissenting principles might object probably to an increase of the Roman-catholic persuasion; but, generally speaking, I do not think it would be unpopular. (Page 49.)

S. Cunard, Esq., Examined. (The subject, Prince Edward's Island.)

705. Have you been able to observe any considerable difference in the conduct and progress of the emigrants from those different parts?

I think that the English farmers are the best; I think the Irish are the next, if they are from a farming district, and their children are very good. The descendants of the Irish make excellent settlers. The Scotch Highlanders are very bad settlers. If you get Lowland farmers they are very good indeed, but the Highlanders are perfectly unacquainted with farming; they are very easily satisfied; they are content with a very small clearing, and they remain so. Their views appear to be bounded by very limited desires.

706. As to orderliness and obedience to law, is there any difference between the different class of settlers?

I do not think there is.

707. In the event of circumstances enabling the colony to receive any increased number of emigrants, would there be any indisposition to receive a portion of those from Ireland?

Certainly not. There are a great many Irish there; the Irish that go out have friends in all parts of the island. (P. 74.)

G. Pemberton, Esq., Examined.

876. Are you disposed to draw any distinction in these remarks, as applicable to the emigrants from the various parts of the United Kingdom?

I do not make any, excepting so far as this, that I find the Irish are better adapted for all works requiring great strength; and not only so, but all laborious works in the United States and Canada are chiefly performed by the Irish emigrants; and so far, I think, they are better calculated than any other class of emigrants for settling in a new country, when without the means of purchasing land. (P. 88.)

J. M. Brydone, Esq., Examined.

1317. You have no doubt they would be applicable to the agricultural work to which in Ireland they have been accustomed, spade work?

They are peculiarly calculated for the work in Canada, because in clearing land in Canada the timber is cut down in the winter; and according to the quantity of snow upon the land at the time when the trees are felled, the height of those stumps will be from three feet, perhaps, to four and a half feet above the ground, and those stumps would remain in the ground for five years before they could be finally removed, and perhaps some species of timber, the roots of the pine species, may remain seven years; and therefore the work which the peasantry of Ireland have been accustomed to, spade husbandry, makes them peculiarly calculated for that description of work. (Page 135.)

Note.—As farmers he thinks them much less efficient than as labourers.

Lieut.-Colonel *E. Macarthur*, Examined. (Australia.)

3109. Are you acquainted with the authority and reputation acquired by Sir R. Bourke, during the period of his Australian government?

I am fully aware how much Australia is indebted to him.

3110. In his examination before a Committee of the House of Lords in the present year, having been asked with respect to the character of the Irish convicts, as compared with convicts from other parts of the empire, he states that he thinks "that the usual propensities of the Irish followed them to New South Wales, but that they were esteemed to be good labourers, and they were always sought after by the owners of large estates. They were not so much sought for in towns as in the country districts, but they were certainly preferred as agricultural labourers." Does that answer given by Sir R. Bourke coincide with the information that you have obtained?

It does. I know that most valuable agricultural servants have been found amongst the Irish.

3111. Sir R. Bourke adds, in a second answer, that he has known several of the most respectable settlers desire to have Irish convicts employed upon their lands. Now if this be true with respect to the convict population, is it your opinion that it would be equally true with respect to free emigrants from Ireland?

I think so; but at the same time it is right that I should distinctly state that it would be highly advantageous for the Irish themselves if they could be intermixed with population from every part of Great Britain. (P. 323.)

W. Verner, Esq., Examined. (Australia.)

3866. Taking into account your own experience, and also the experience which your knowledge of Sir W. Verner's property has given you, can you speak as to the character of the Irish emigrants as compared with that of emigrants from other parts of the United Kingdom?

Yes; for my own part I chiefly employed Irishmen, though I do employ Scotchmen and Englishmen likewise; and I find the Irishmen extremely useful; I should say equally useful with any other men.

3867. Have you observed the habits of the descendants of any of the Irish settlers, the Irish of the second generation; do you see a tendency to improve in them exceeding what you observed in the first settlers?

The term we apply to all born in the colony is "currency." I have never seen any difference in the habits or character of the currency people, whether born from English, Scotch, or Irish parents. (P. 392.)

A. Cunninghame, Esq., Examined. (Australia.)

4174. Have you had emigrants from different parts of the United Kingdom?

Yes, from all parts.

4175. Have they all for the most part succeeded?

Yes; individuals from all parts of the United Kingdom have succeeded, no doubt, in different proportions. However, I should say that probably the best labourers in the colony, those that all the masters would prefer to have, are the English, the Lowland Scotch, and the north of Ireland men. Of those three, probably the Englishman is the most obedient and the least troublesome, and the Lowland Scotchman is probably the most successful. He gets sooner out of the labour market into being himself a proprietor. The north of Ireland men apparently succeed well, many of them.

4176. What would you say as to the other class of Irish emigrants?

The south of Ireland men are, many of them, useful men as labourers; but not so large a number of them succeed in getting out of the labour market. They are very good labourers, but you find very few of them employed as overseers, or in situations of that kind.

4177. They have less education?

Less education; and perhaps less what we term prudence. They are, however, extremely useful men in their way. It is but fair to say that objections have been made by no small number of people in the colony with reference to the south of Ireland men, chiefly, I think, owing to their religion; and perhaps so long as Protestants and Roman-catholics are understood to be almost hostile armies arrayed against each other, it is scarcely a matter of surprise that each party should wish the fewest recruits to the number of the opposite party; otherwise they are very good labourers, and no objection would be made if they are only in fair proportion to the English and Scotch sent out. (P. 431.)

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir *T. L. Mitchell*, Examined. (Australia.)

242. (First Report, 1848.) Did you employ them indiscriminately, English, Scotch, and Irish, as you found them?

Yes, as I found them.

243. What Report are you able to make to the Committee as to the character of the Irish labourers?

From my own experience I found them the best and the most hard-working. There were three or four Irish labourers known to me in Sydney, whom I employed when I had any very hard work to do, knowing they would give me an honest day's work, and work hard; they were very hard-working, strong men.

244. Did they realize your expectations during the time you employed them?

Always.

245. Did you find them more difficult to manage, and less controllable than other labourers?

I think they understood better what I wanted done. (P. 25.)

Mr. *J. Besnard*, junior, Examined.

1843. (First Report for 1848.) Was there not an engagement entered into with Mr. Dowling, of Van Diemen's Land?

Mr. Dowling, of Van Diemen's Land, was authorized by the colonists of Van Diemen's Land, with the sanction of the colonial government, to come to this country and select a certain number of emigrants.

1844. In what year was that?

I think he arrived in this country in 1840 or 1841.

1845. Did he visit Ireland, and had you any communications with him?

Yes.

1846. Will you describe those communications?

When he first arrived in England, he succeeded in getting as many emigrants as filled one or two ships, but with so much trouble and expense to himself that he applied to Messrs. Carter and Bonus to know whether they would undertake to supply the difference, and they stated to him that they would, provided he sent his ships to Cork, to which he at first objected, having very candidly stated that he had a very strong prejudice to Irish emigrants.

1847. Was he a colonist?

I believe he was. He subsequently agreed to send the ships to Cork, and he himself came and superintended very attentively the whole business, and returned to Van Diemen's Land under very different impressions indeed.

1848. Did he express that difference of opinion after he had seen the emigrants?

He did, both to me, and I believe to Her Majesty's Land and Emigration Commissioners, to whom he had very freely communicated his dislike; at least he told me so. (P. 174.)

The Rev. *J. D. Lang*, Examined. (Australia.)

2502. (Second Report for 1848.) We find the Scotch Highlanders in the colony much more willing to go into the interior and to conform to the solitary life of the colonial shepherds than the generality of the Irish immigrants, from the circumstance of their being a pastoral people, in a great measure, and from their being accustomed to a solitary life at home; and that circumstance has not been sufficiently taken into account in the emigration of past times, with respect to a large proportion of the emigrants who come out to us. (P. 242.)

Mr. Justice *Therry*, Examined. (Australia.)

3133. (Second Report for 1848.) Do you think there is anything in the nature of the Irish settler that unfits him for the peculiar work that is required on the part of an emigrant in the colony?

I am not aware that there is; in some instances they are preferred. In some cases the experience of the English farmer is considered to be a great advantage, in others the Scotch emigrant is preferred; but for some descriptions of labour many of the employers prefer the Irish labourer, as for shepherds, for instance, for hard labour, for ploughing, and the ordinary agricultural labour. There are, I know, various opinions upon that point; but I think the exercise of an impartial judgment will show that they are all received with equal favour. (P. 326.)

R. B. Minturn, Esq., Examined. (The United States.)

3246. (Second Report for 1848.) There was then no indisposition on the part of the Irish labourers to support themselves by honest industry?

On the contrary, every man who was able to carry a spade went to work, and although the Commission of Emigration commenced its operations in May, and those persons were authorized by law to demand assistance from them whenever they were unable to take care of themselves, there were no instances of applications from able-bodied men for admission to the institutions of the Commissioners until the winter set in, which greatly diminished out-door labour; and at no time were there chargeable to the Commissioners more than 300 able-bodied men.

3247. Out of the enormous number that came?

Out of the emigration of 50,000 Irish and 160,000 of all nations. (P. 339.)

3816. It also produces very good effects to the people, who themselves emigrate into the country?

Surprising effects. In America, they imbibe the spirit of the country. The Irish who are said to be unwilling to work at home, are industrious in the United States. I have scarce ever known an able-bodied Irishman unwilling to work. I can speak with great confidence with regard to their indefatigable industry and willingness to work, and that they do not seek assistance when they can obtain labour. (P. 346.)

Appendix K.

COMPARATIVE RETURN of Emigration from the Ports of the United Kingdom at which there are Government Emigration Officers, for the first Four Months of 1847, 1848 and 1849.

	1847.					1848.					1849.				
	United States.	British North America.	Australian Colonies.	All other Places.	TOTAL.	United States.	British North America.	Australian Colonies.	All other Places.	TOTAL.	United States.	British North America.	Australian Colonies.	All other Places.	TOTAL.
January:															
London	55	- -	59	142	256	108	- -	397	166	671	448	- -	1,366	243	2,057
Liverpool	4,062	- -	- -	16	4,078	3,326	4	- -	65	3,395	6,712	- -	- -	18	6,730
Plymouth	- -	- -	201	- -	201	- -	- -	143	- -	143	- -	- -	1,237	- -	1,237
Glasgow and Greenock	9	- -	14	26	49	112	- -	- -	2	114	121	- -	- -	12	133
Dublin	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil
Belfast	100	- -	- -	- -	100	61	- -	- -	- -	61	185	- -	- -	- -	185
Londonderry	37	- -	- -	- -	37	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil
Sligo and Out-ports	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil
Limerick	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	143	- -	- -	- -	143
Cork	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	175	2	- -	- -	177	20	- -	- -	- -	20
Waterford and New Ross	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	120	- -	- -	- -	120
Total for January	4,263	- -	274	184	4,721	3,782	6	540	233	4,561	7,749	- -	2,603	273	10,625
February:															
London	73	- -	159	162	394	205	- -	748	294	1,247	694	- -	1,750	228	2,672
Liverpool	8,247	4	- -	28	8,279	7,054	- -	14	68	7,136	12,581	3	9	88	12,681
Plymouth	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	197	85	282	- -	- -	933	- -	933
Glasgow and Greenock	95	2	- -	- -	97	438	- -	- -	2	440	413	- -	- -	6	419
Dublin	108	- -	- -	- -	108	126	- -	- -	- -	126	773	- -	- -	- -	773
Belfast	498	- -	- -	- -	498	510	- -	- -	- -	510	399	- -	- -	- -	399
Londonderry	108	- -	- -	- -	108	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	98	- -	- -	- -	98
Sligo and Out-ports	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil
Limerick	60	- -	- -	- -	60	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil
Cork	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	277	- -	- -	2	279
Waterford and New Ross	110	- -	- -	- -	110	- -	- -	- -	- -	nil	20	- -	- -	- -	20
Total for February	9,299	6	159	190	9,654	8,333	- -	959	449	9,741	15,255	3	2,692	324	18,274
March:															
London	632	64	42	145	883	992	94	754	328	2,168	1,859	61	2,146	409	4,475
Liverpool	17,222	370	- -	54	17,646	14,136	34	- -	56	14,226	15,867	20	101	63	16,051
Plymouth	- -	- -	528	- -	528	- -	- -	460	- -	460	- -	- -	1,085	62	1,147
Glasgow and Greenock	702	123	- -	17	842	171	95	- -	11	277	907	103	- -	1	1,011
Dublin	604	- -	- -	- -	604	1,749	- -	- -	- -	1,749	1,845	- -	- -	- -	1,845
Belfast	743	- -	- -	- -	743	1,535	- -	- -	- -	1,535	1,342	- -	- -	- -	1,342
Londonderry	1,214	- -	- -	- -	1,214	1,312	315	- -	- -	1,627	1,550	245	- -	- -	1,795
Sligo and Out-ports	175	670	- -	- -	845	- -	72	- -	- -	72	418	83	- -	- -	501
Limerick	175	- -	- -	- -	175	- -	177	- -	- -	177	327	- -	- -	- -	327
Cork	734	120	- -	- -	854	1,313	398	- -	- -	1,711	1,471	- -	- -	- -	1,471
Waterford and New Ross	179	- -	- -	- -	179	134	- -	- -	- -	134	945	411	- -	- -	1,356
Total for March	22,380	1,347	570	216	24,513	21,342	1,185	1,214	395	24,136	26,531	923	3,332	535	31,321
April:															
London	1,216	248	200	162	1,826	2,332	276	984	145	3,737	2,381	320	1,262	291	4,254
Liverpool	14,471	10,186	- -	20	24,677	15,182	260	- -	95	15,537	18,419	1,014	- -	33	19,466
Plymouth	- -	272	111	- -	383	- -	574	510	20	1,104	- -	738	1,005	- -	1,743
Glasgow and Greenock	1,174	268	- -	13	1,455	1,108	521	64	3	1,696	2,073	330	111	5	2,519
Dublin	498	2,087	- -	- -	2,585	1,372	189	- -	- -	1,561	964	594	- -	- -	1,558
Belfast	871	2,599	- -	1	3,471	931	324	- -	- -	1,255	1,780	663	- -	- -	2,443
Londonderry	1,304	2,253	- -	- -	3,557	1,449	214	- -	- -	1,663	1,258	328	- -	- -	1,586
Sligo and Out-ports	374	2,165	- -	- -	2,539	57	1,081	- -	- -	1,138	558	619	- -	- -	1,177
Limerick	584	2,641	- -	- -	3,225	386	3,059	- -	- -	3,445	3,306	732	- -	- -	4,038
Cork	1,471	4,468	- -	1	5,940	2,303	1,303	- -	- -	3,606	1,745	1,064	- -	- -	2,809
Waterford and New Ross	249	1,919	- -	- -	2,168	475	1,274	- -	- -	1,749	2,165	723	- -	- -	2,888
Total for April	22,212	29,106	311	197	51,826	25,595	9,075	1,558	263	36,491	34,649	7,125	2,378	329	44,481
Grand Total, Four Months	58,154	30,459	1,314	787	90,714	59,052	10,266	4,271	1,340	74,929	84,184	8,051	11,005	1,461	104,701

RETURN respecting TAX in *Canada* on IMMIGRANTS.

RATE prior to Colonial Act of 23 March 1848.	Proposed by Lord Grey.	Enacted by the Canadian Legislature, 23 March 1848.	PRESENT RATES.
One dollar, or 5*s.* currency (about 4*s.* 2*d.* sterling) on every adult coming from the United Kingdom. Two children between 7 and 14, or three between 1 and 7 years of age, reckoned as one adult. No charge on children under one.	Tax, 5*s.* - - Tax after 10 September, 10*s.* Tax after 1 October, 15*s.* Tax on vessels placed in quarantine, 10*s.* to 20*s.* Tax on Emigrants likely to become chargeable, security for one year, or 10*s.*	- - Tax 10*s.* on every Emigrant, of whatever age. - - Tax after 20 September, 20*s.* ditto. - - Tax after 1 October, 30*s.* ditto. - - Tax on vessels placed in quarantine, 2*s.* 6*d.* for every three days, not to exceed in all 20*s.* - - Tax on Emigrants likely to become chargeable, security for one year in 20*l.* or 20*s.*	7*s.* 6*d.* currency on every adult, and 5*s.* currency on children between 5 and 15, embarking from the United Kingdom under the sanction of Government, ascertained by a certificate from an officer of Customs at the port of embarkation. 10*s.* for every passenger or Emigrant embarking without such sanction. Children under 5 years exempt. An additional rate of 40*s.* on every passenger not included in the Lists required by the Passengers' Act to be presented before departure to the officers of Customs.

A RETURN of the EXPENSE at each of the DEPÔTS or other ESTABLISHMENTS for the Reception of EMIGRANTS, during the Years 1847 and 1848 respectively; distinguishing, in each case, whether the Payments are made from IMPERIAL or COLONIAL FUNDS.

COPY of a LETTER from the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners to HERMAN MERIVALE, Esq.

Colonial Land and Emigration Office,
16 April 1849.

Sir,

IN reply to your letter of the 7th ultimo, we have the honour to enclose the Returns relative to Emigration Expenses, called for by the Order of The House of Commons, dated 19th February 1849.

We have, &c
(signed) *T. W. C. Murdoch.*
Frederic Rogers.

RETURN of the EXPENSES at each of the DEPÔTS or other ESTABLISHMENTS for the Reception of EMIGRANTS during the Years 1847 and 1848 respectively; distinguishing in each case, whether the Payments are made from IMPERIAL or COLONIAL FUNDS; and defining—

1. The Amount paid for Rent of each Depôt, and the Name of the Owner.
2. Cost per Head of each Emigrant for Depôt Expenses, specifying the Charge for Lodging and Rations.
3. Cost of Bedding and Utensils for each Emigrant, by whom supplied, and whether by Public or Private Contract.
4. Expense of Establishments of Naval Agents at London and Plymouth respectively, with the Number of Clerks, and the Amount paid to each; also, any additional Sums paid for other and what Superintendence at the aforesaid Depôts.
5. The Amount paid to each Selecting Agent in Great Britain and Ireland, and at what per Centage.
6. The Amount per Head for the conveyance of Emigrants to the Depôts at London or Plymouth, and the Commission paid to Agents for shipping Emigrants at the Outports of Great Britain or Ireland on their way to the said Depôts.
7. Average Amount paid, as per Contract, for the Conveyance of Emigrants to each of the Australian Colonies, per Statute Adult.
8. Charge, if any, stating the several Items, and the Amount borne by each of the Australian Colonies, for the Maintenance of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners' Department.

Nos. 1 and 2.

	1847.	1848.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Gross Expense of Depôt at Deptford; owner, Mr. Richard Cooper	241 6 6	3,023 14 10
Ditto at Plymouth; owners, Messrs. John Marshall & Co.	994 18 —	3,058 2 5
Rent of Depôts	nil	nil.
Cost per *statute adult, including board and lodging, Deptford	First day, 2 *s.* 6 *d.*; for subsequent days, 2 *s.*	Up to 1 July same as 1847. Present rate: first four days, 2 *s.*; for subsequent days, 1 *s.* 6 *d.*; half rates for day of embarkation, if before dinner.
Ditto Plymouth	Uniformly 2 *s.* per diem	Up to 1 August same as 1847. Present rate the same as at Deptford.

The cost is borne by the Colonies to which the Emigrants by each vessel respectively proceed.

* Two children between one and fourteen years of age count as one adult; children under one are not counted or paid for.

No. 3.

The average cost of Bedding and Mess Utensils per statute adult was, in 1847, 18 *s.* 8 *d.*; and in 1848, 17 *s.* 7 ½ *d.*

These articles were supplied by private contract by Mr. Cooper, of Deptford, and paid for out of the deposit received from the emigrants.

No. 4.

Naval Agent's Establishment.

London:	£.	s.	d.
Agent	308	5	—
Assistant	120	—	—
Second ditto	100	—	—
Clerk	60	—	—
Plymouth:			
Agent	120	—	—

These salaries are paid out of the Imperial Vote for Emigration Services.

In addition to the above establishments, an officer has, during the last two years, been employed at London in the surveying branch of the duties, and paid at the rate of 2 *l.* per week; and at Plymouth an officer has been employed since 1 April 1848 in despatching ships, at a salary of 200 *l.* per annum, and 1 *l.* per ship for clerical assistance. These two officers are paid out of colonial funds.

No. 5.

Amount paid to Selecting Agents.

1847.

	£. s. d.		£. s. d.
Brickman, Mr. C.	3 10 —	Morris, Mr. Charles	6 15 —
Bromley, Mr.	1 10 —	Newman, Mr. James	17 — —
Brown, Mr. John	3 — —	Reynold, Mr. C. B.	3 — —
Bull, Mr. Humphrey	114 — —	Roberts, Mr. William	7 5 —
Chew, Mr. Thomas	1 10 —	Ross, Mr. Edward	— 10 —
Denniston, Mr. John	3 — —	Serjeant, Mr. Joseph	1 10 —
Duckham, Mr. A. B.	11 15 —	Smedley, Mr. Joseph	1 10 —
Ellis, Mr. Samuel	363 5 —	Smith, Mr. J. E.	2 — —
Ennals, Mr. William	15 10 —	Strange, Mr. John	16 5 —
Geake, Mr.	39 15 —	Wilcocks, Mr. J. B.	797 15 —
Holt, Mr.	17 — —	Winchcombe, Mr. John	— 15 —
Horsfall, Mr. I. T.	6 — —	Withers, Mr. Frederic	21 10 —
Ibbs, Mr. C. W.	55 15 —	Wood, Mr. Thomas	2 15 —
Johnson, Mr. Josias	6 15 —		
Kelly, Mr.	56 — —	£.	1,592 — —
Moore, Mr. Charles	15 5 —		

1848.

1848.

	£.	s.	d.
Alt, Rev. T. Henry	35	–	–
Berkeley, Mr. John	21	5	–
Booth, Mr. William	4	5	–
Brickman, Mr. Christopher	230	15	–
Brown, Mr. John	21	–	–
Bull, Mr. Humphrey	316	10	–
Chapman, Mr. William	45	5	–
Chew, Mr Thomas	45	–	–
Chrisp, Mr. John	1	10	–
Craig, Mr. Thomas W.	8	10	–
Denniston, Mr. John	20	10	–
Dorant, Mr. A. A.	51	10	–
Doubell, Mr.	1	–	–
Duckham, Mr. A. B.	27	5	–
Edwards, Mr. Henry	20	–	–
Elliott, Mr. John	6	10	–
Ellis, Mr. Samuel	280	5	–
Ennals, Mr. William	52	–	–
Fox, Mr. Henry	87	10	–
Golding, Mr. James	32	15	–
Graves, Captain A.	26	5	–
Hatton, Mr. W.	88	10	–
Haythorn, Mr. Fergus	20	5	–
Hayward, Mr. Jacob S.	12	–	–
Hervey, Mr. James	31	15	–
Hickton, Mr. James	3	10	–
Hoad, Mr. Francis	3	15	–
Holby, Mr. James	4	5	–
Holloway & Sons	12	15	–
Horne, Mr. R. H.	2	–	–
Horsfall, Mr. J. T.	110	5	–
Hutchinson, Mr. Bingham	2	15	–
Ibbs, Mr. C. W.	75	10	–
Innes, Mr. Norman	663	–	–
Johnston, Mr. Josias	91	10	–
Johnson, Mr.	3	–	–
Just, Mr. Pat.	73	15	–
Keable, Mr. C. B.	39	5	–
Kilgour, Dr.	69	15	–
Langham, Mr. Lewis	12	15	–
Lasseter, Mr. Richard	1	–	–
Le Lievre, Mr. James	11	10	–
Liardet, Mr. Evelyn	6	10	–
Lodwidge, Mr. J.	14	5	–
Machin, Mr. William	2	–	–
M'Intyre, Mr. Peter	99	5	–
Marshall & Co.	94	–	–
Mercer, Mr. George D.	42	10	–
Mitchell, Mr. Robert	2	–	–
Moore, Mr. Charles	154	15	–
Morris, Mr. Charles	22	10	–
Newman, Mr. James	72	5	–
Oxley, Mr. Joseph	5	15	–
Parker, Mr. Joseph	1	10	–
Rae, Mr. George	11	–	–
Reynolds, Mr. C. B.	32	5	–
Richardson, Mr. Frederic	30	–	–
Roberts, Mr. William	12	5	–
Rodger, Mr. Peter	5	10	–
Ross, Mr. Edward	5	10	–
Russell, Mr. H. R.	103	15	–
Rutherford, Mr. Andrew	24	15	–
Saunders, Mr. W. E.	7	5	–
Smedley, Mr. Joseph	11	5	–
Smith, Mr. J. E.	24	5	–
Stephenson, Mr. William	16	–	–
Strange, Mr. John	26	5	–
Suffield, Mr. C.	1	10	–
Sutherland, Mr. John	68	–	–
Thorngate, Mr. John B.	7	5	–
Watson, Mr. John	2	–	–
Webb, Messrs. R. & B.	18	10	–
White, Mr. Edward	19	5	–
Wilcocks, Mr. J. B.	1,763	10	–
Winchcombe, Mr. John	37	15	–
Withers, Mr. Frederic	104	10	–
Wood, Mr. James	63	5	–
Wood, Mr. Thomas	36	15	–
Woolsey, Mr. W. W.	1	10	–
Wynyard, Captain W.	8	–	–
TOTAL £.	5,626	5	–

The fees to Agents are borne by different Colonial Funds. They include all expenses of advertising, travelling, postage, &c.; and are payable only on such persons as may have been approved, and actually embarked. They are at the following rates:—

For each married couple	£.	1	10 –
„ single woman		–	15 –
„ single man		–	10 –

No fees are paid for children under 14 years of age.

The total amount paid to Agents in 1847, was 1,592 *l.*—The number of Emigrants sent out by the Commissioners was 4,133.

The total amount paid to Agents in 1848, was 5,626 *l.* 5 *s.*—The number of Emigrants sent out by the Commissioners was 18,611.

No. 6.

THE Commissioners pay out of Colonial Funds for the conveyance of Emigrants from only four places; viz. from Leith and Hull to London, and from Dublin and Cork to Plymouth, at the under-mentioned rates:

Leith, 1 *l.* - - per adult. } Two children between one and fourteen years of age count as one adult; children under one are not counted or paid for.
Hull, 7 *s.* - - „ - }

Dublin, 13 *s.* 6 *d.* per adult. } Two children between one and ten years of age count as one adult.
Cork, 1 *l.* - - „ - }

At Leith and Hull, 1 *s.* per adult is allowed to an Agent for superintending the embarkation of Emigrants. But at Dublin and Cork this service is performed without fee by the Emigration Officers stationed at those ports.

No. 7.

THE average amount of contract Price per Adult, for the conveyance of Emigrants to the Australian Colonies, during the years 1847 and 1848, was as follows:

	1847.			1848.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
New South Wales - - - -	12	9	8 ½	12	12	9 ½
South Australia - - - -	12	19	- ¾	11	19	11 ½

No. 8.

THE expense of the Commissioners' Establishment is annually voted by Parliament; but, in consequence of the increase in the emigration, it has been necessary to employ extra clerks, paid at daily rates, varying from 3 *s.* to 6 *s.*; and also to engage, from March 1848, an additional office and office-keeper. The extra expenditure not voted by Parliament is borne by New South Wales, South Australia, and the Cape of Good Hope, in proportion to the number of Emigrants despatched to each. The gross amount, as near as can be stated, was 320 *l.* for the year 1847, and 2,140 *l.* for the year 1848.

IT has been found impossible, without great delay and labour, to prepare a Return showing the number of Agricultural Labourers, as distinguished from Mechanics and others, sent out by the Emigration Commissioners to Australia.

NUMBER of CALAIS REFUGEES sent to *Australia*.

COLONY.	NUMBER OF SOULS.
New South Wales - - - -	378
South Australia - - - - -	236
TOTAL - - -	614

EXTRACTS from OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS in the possession of the COLONIAL LAND and EMIGRATION COMMISSIONERS, on the Subject of IRISH EMIGRATION to *New South Wales* and *South Australia*.

EXTRACT from REPORT, for the Year 1839, of the Committee of the Legislative Council of *New South Wales* on EMIGRATION.

THERE is danger lest the choice of subjects for emigration at the cost of the Colony should come to be decided rather by consideration for local interests in England than for those of the Australian community; that such a tendency does exist, and has to a certain extent prevailed, is clear, from the accounts received by your Committee of the description of a large portion (even so great as one-third) of the Immigrants from Ireland, in whose case, either from the want of a sufficient care in the selection, or from other causes not obvious to your Committee, there exists a disinclination on the part of the public to employ them so readily as others, insomuch that it frequently has become necessary to discharge them from the Immigration Barrack without having obtained an engagement; being thus without resource, they become a burden to themselves and to the Colony.

EXTRACT of Evidence of Mr. N. JAMES, before the Committee.

Do you consider the Irish Immigrants you have introduced as, generally speaking, upon a par with any other, in point of qualifications?

As far as I can judge, they have not been considered to be so by the settlers generally.

EXTRACT from Evidence of A. B. SMITH, Esq., before the Committee.

Do many Irish Immigrants arrive here by your ships from Liverpool?

Generally speaking, two-fifths are Irish.

Do you experience any difficulty in disposing of them in service, as if they were less esteemed than English or others?

They are less esteemed than English and Scotch, who always go off first.

EXTRACT

EXTRACT from REPORT, for the Year 1841, of the COMMITTEE of the LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL of *New South Wales*, on IMMIGRATION.

BUT, in one respect, your Committee think that a very salutary improvement might be introduced, that is, in apportioning the stations of vessels chartered for Emigrants with greater attention to the local circumstances and comparative claims of the various divisions of the United Kingdom; those vessels, as appears from a Return in the Appendix, have been despatched from 20 different ports; but the bounty ships from England have been confined to London, Plymouth and Liverpool; and from Scotland, to Leith and Greenock; while one-third of the ships chartered by Government have sailed from Irish ports. Your Committee cannot pass unnoticed a circumstance which has attracted serious attention on the part of the public, namely, that, of the entire number of Immigrants brought to the Colony, one-third have been Roman Catholics; the ships from Plymouth have introduced 11 of that denomination for every 15 Protestants, and from Liverpool the proportions are as 11 to 27, while from the Irish ports the numbers of Roman Catholics compared with Protestants are as two to one; there is obviously a departure from the principles of justice in an arrangement which leads to such a result, the proportion above stated being widely at variance with the respective numbers of the religious persuasions in this Colony, and with the relative contributions of Protestants and Roman Catholics toward the Land Fund, from which the means of supporting immigration are derived; they are at variance no less with the admitted principle, that the expenditure of that fund should be regulated by a just consideration for the advantages of all parts of the United Kingdom; with a view, therefore, to correct the existing inequality, and to afford a more general participation in the benefit of emigration to those counties in England and Wales from which a most desirable class of persons may be obtained, your Committee beg to suggest, that Portsmouth, Milford Haven, Lynn and Hull should, for the future, be included among the ports from which ships for the conveyance of Emigrants take their departure.

EXTRACT from REPORT of IMMIGRATION BOARD at *Port Phillip*, dated 7 March 1844, on Immigrants by the "Royal Consort."

WE beg further to observe, that when we consider the class of Immigrants which have been heretofore sent out, we would most strongly recommend that the selections in future be chiefly made in the rural districts, and in fair proportions from England, Ireland and Scotland, so that the preponderance may not be, as formerly, in favour of the south and south-west counties of Ireland.

EXTRACT of RETURN from IMMIGRATION AGENT at *New South Wales*, for the Quarter ended 31 March 1844.

ON former occasions such as the present, it has been remarked, that the greater number of persons from the south and south-west of Ireland are generally unequal to the duties of the calling they profess to be of, useless for a time, until they are taught to be useful, and by no means a desirable class of people.

EXTRACT of LETTER from Rev. J. D. LANG, D.D., Member of the Legislative Council of *New South Wales*, to Right Honourable Earl GREY, dated 25 March 1847.

I HAVE the honour to represent to your Lordship, that I have recently returned to England from the Colony of New South Wales, chiefly with a view to promote an extensive emigration of virtuous and industrious Protestants of the middle and humbler classes of society, from the Mother Country to that Colony, and thereby to prevent its being overrun, to the great danger and detriment of the cause of civil and religious liberty in Australia and the southern hemisphere generally, with a Roman Catholic immigration from the south and west of Ireland; a consummation with which the Colony has been threatened for the last eight years and upwards, and of which not a few of its Protestant inhabitants conceive it is at this moment in imminent danger.

Embarking for England with this view, I was entrusted with various petitions from Protestants of all denominations residing in various parts of the territory, but particularly in the district of Port Phillip, to your Lordship's predecessor, Lord Stanley, pointing out the peculiar grievance under which the petitioners have hitherto laboured, in being inundated at the public expense with an Irish Roman Catholic population.

EXTRACT of PETITION enclosed in above Letter from Dr. LANG, signed by 504 Inhabitants of the County of *Bourke*, in the District of *Port Phillip*.

THAT of the former two classes above-mentioned, the masters or employers of labour, 85 per cent., or thereabouts, are natives of England and Scotland, and the remaining 15 per cent. of Ireland, almost the whole of this class being British Protestants; while of the latter class, the servants or labourers, the proportions may be inferred from the following fact, exhibited

in the Report of the Immigration Committee of the Legislative Council of New South Wales for the year 1842, viz., that the total amount of immigration into the entire Colony from the 1st January 1841 till the 30th June 1842 (at which period immigration received a temporary check), was 16,892 from Ireland, chiefly Roman Catholics from the southern portions of that island, and only 8,438 from England and Scotland together.

That, without desiring to impute blame in any quarter, particularly for the mismanagement which such a state of things would appear to imply in the immigration department of the public service of this Colony, your petitioners would beg most respectfully to submit to your Lordship whether it is not a manifest injustice to the humbler classes of Great Britain, as well as to your Lordship's petitioners and the other Protestant inhabitants of Port Phillip, who have hitherto been the principal, if not exclusive contributors of the immigration fund, that Ireland should thus derive four times the amount of benefit to which it is fairly entitled from the expenditure of that fund, as compared with England and Scotland together.

Similar petitions, forwarded by Dr. Lang, from 324 inhabitants of Geelong; 36 inhabitants of the Goulbourn River District; 26 inhabitants of Portland Bay, and 14 inhabitants of Port Fairy District.

EXTRACT of a PETITION from 23 Inhabitants of *Brisbane Town, Moreton Bay*, also forwarded by Dr. LANG.

THAT under this system a very large proportion, probably 80 per cent., of the purchasers of land in this Colony have been Protestants from Great Britain and the north of Ireland, while a very large proportion of the free Emigrants imported at the public expense with the funds contributed by these Protestants, through the purchase of waste land, have been Roman Catholics, chiefly from the south-west of Ireland; the whole number of Emigrants introduced into the Colony in this way from the 1st of January 1841 to the 30th of June 1842, the period during which there was the greatest amount of this description of emigration, having been 25,330 (twenty-five thousand three hundred and thirty), of whom not fewer than 16,892 (sixteen thousand eight hundred and ninety-two) were from Ireland, chiefly Roman Catholics from the south-west of that island, and only 8,438 (eight thousand four hundred and thirty-eight) from England and Scotland together.

That your petitioners cannot but ascribe a state of things so peculiarly injurious, and likely, if continued, to prove eventually so disastrous to the interests of Protestantism in this Colony, to the grossest mismanagement on the part of the civil authorities of the Colony, in not requiring the importers of free emigrants at the public expense to import them in fair and equitable proportions from each of the three United Kingdoms.

That the evils arising from this disproportionate introduction of Irish Roman Catholics into this Colony under the system of bounty emigration had been greatly aggravated by the well-known fact, that from the first settlement of this Colony in the year 1788 till the final discontinuance of transportation to New South Wales in the year 1841, Irish convicts (of whom 95 per cent. were uniformly Roman Catholics, chiefly from the south and west of Ireland) were transported exclusively to New South Wales and to Van Diemen's Land.

That the elements of society in this Colony consist, therefore, to a vast and alarming extent, of such materials as Protestants from the United Kingdom, with the melancholy example of Ireland before their eyes, cannot regard with any degree of confidence for the maintenance of that civil and religious liberty which constitutes alike the birthright and the glory of Britons, and the best security for their social advancement.

That as emigration at the public expense, which has been discontinued for some time past, in consequence of the general depression of the Colony, is now expected to be resumed with the returning prosperity of the country, your petitioner, anxious alike for the maintenance of their common Protestantism, and for the future peace and good government of their adopted country, humbly request that your Lordship will be pleased to take the premises into your favourable consideration, and to give the requisite directions for ensuring a fair and equitable proportion of the future emigration of this description from the British and Protestant portions of the United Kingdom.

EXTRACT of DESPATCH from Sir H. E. F. YOUNG to Right Hon. Earl GREY, dated *Adelaide*, 10 September 1848.

I HAVE the honour to forward a South Australian Government Gazette, containing the appointment of an Irish Orphan Emigration Committee, in pursuance of the instructions conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch, No. 28, of the 28th February last.

Your Lordship will observe, that the Committee comprises the prelates of the churches of England and Rome, the Presbyterian minister, the Wesleyan minister, two non-official members of the Legislative Council, the Advocate-general, the Protector of Aborigines, and two highly respectable colonists not holding office under the local government.

The Roman Catholic prelate, the Right Rev. Dr. Murphy, is at present at Sydney, but during his Lordship's absence his Vicar-general has been requested to attend the Committee in his stead.

I have the honour of enclosing to your Lordship an extract minute of the Committee at their second meeting (the Roman Catholic Vicar-general and Captain Bagot being absent), held on the 4th September instant, in which is embodied, as they report, the decided opinion of

of the great body of the colonists, that the emigration of orphans to South Australia should not be composed exclusively of children from Ireland, but that it should include a due proportion of English and Scotch orphans.

Extract referred to.

Extract from Minute of Irish Orphan Committee, 4 September 1848.

The Committee, in carrying out the intentions of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the Irish emigrant orphans, is desirous of recording its opinion, that such an emigration will not be acceptable to the inhabitants of South Australia, unless the relative proportion of the population of Ireland to that of Great Britain be duly observed; and they would request his Excellency, in communicating the proceedings of the Committee to the Right Honourable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, to transmit also the above resolution, as embodying the decided feeling of the great body of the colonists.

Extract of Report of Irish Orphan Committee to the Colonial Secretary of *South Australia*, dated 20 November 1848.

The Board is of opinion, that the Immigrants were as useful a class as could, at the present time, have been sent to the Colony, and would recommend the Lieutenant-Governor to advise Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies to send out, during the next year, from three to four hundred young females. The Board would, however, strongly, but respectfully, urge the principle of their Minute of the 4th of September last, which states that "such emigration will not be acceptable to the inhabitants of South Australia, unless the relative proportion of the population of Ireland to that of Great Britain be duly observed."

Extract of Despatch from Sir H. E. F. Young to the Right Honourable Earl Grey, dated *Adelaide*, 12 October 1848.

The colonists of South Australia are very desirous that the funds for emigration purposes, which are locally raised, should be expended in due proportion in procuring the most eligible of the labouring classes of Scotland as well as of England and Ireland. They object to South Australian money being expended exclusively on emigration from England, or on emigration from Ireland; and they are dissatisfied that emigration does not proceed as rapidly and as extensively as are the remittances of funds from the Colony, and that any steps should have been adopted tending to check emigration from Scotland. They would gladly receive Emigrants from any country, provided they be sent without expense to the Colony; but in respect to emigrants whose passage-money is to be drawn from the Colony, they wish, as far as circumstances will allow, that the emigration should not be confined exclusively or disproportionately to any one portion of Great Britain.

RETURN of the Number of Emigrants approved by the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners, in accordance with the Provisions of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, 10 Vict. c. 31.

1848.				1849.			
Union.	Date.	Souls.	Statute Adults.	Union.	Date.	Souls.	Statute Adults.
Kilrush	11 April	124	102	Manorhamilton	15 March	90	86
Tipperary	19 „	35	30	Baltinglass	16 April	442	343½
Larne	22 „	6	4½	Ballycastle	28 „	30	26
Londonderry	1 June	8	5½	Coleraine	10 May	3	2
Ennis	15 July	8	7½	Coleraine	10 „	56	45½
Ennis	21 August	16	11½	Kilrush	12 „	149	131½
Loughrea	23 „	8	7	Naas	21 „	3	2
Listowel	9 Nov.	18	12½				
Listowel	28 „	4	3				
Manorhamilton	23 Dec.	7	5				
		234	188½			773	636½

31 May 1849.

LIST of the UNIONS in *Ireland* from which have been selected FEMALE ORPHANS.

1848–49.

NO. OF SHIPS.	NAME OF SHIP.	NAME OF UNION.		COLONY.
	1848:			
1	"Earl Grey" - -	Newry - - - -	10	Sydney.
		Kilkeel - - - -	4	
		Castleblayney - - -	14	
		Carrickmacross - - -	15	
		Monaghan - - -	7	
		Clones - - - -	18	
		Clogher - - - -	17	
		Castlederg - - -	6	
		Strabane - - - -	18	
		Londonderry - - -	26	
		Coleraine - - - -	12	
		Newtownlimavady - -	9	
		Ballycastle - - -	2	
		Magherafelt - - -	24	
		Larne - - - -	9	
		Belfast - - - -	4	
		Cookstown - - -	10	
		Dungannon - - -	15	
			220	
2	"Roman Emperor"	Newry - - - -	10	South Australia.
		Kilkeel - - - -	4	
		Castleblayney - - -	14	
		Carrickmacross - - -	14	
		Monaghan - - -	7	
		Clones - - - -	17	
		Clogher - - - -	15	
		Castlederg - - - -	6	
		Strabane - - - -	18	
		Londonderry - - -	27	
		Coleraine - - - -	12	
		Newtownlimavady - -	9	
		Magherafelt - - -	21	
		Larne - - - -	8	
		Cookstown - - -	10	
		Dungannon - - -	15	
		Belfast - - - -	9	
		Ballycastle - - -	3	
			219	
3	"Lady Kennaway" -	Sligo - - - -	40	Port Phillip.
		Donegal - - - -	23	
		Dunfanaghy - - -	7	
		Letterkenny - - -	19	
		Milford - - - -	9	
		Tuam - - - -	25	
		Ballinasloe - - -	38	
		Ballina - - - -	25	
		Dublin - - - -	5	
			191	

List of the Unions in *Ireland* from which have been selected Female Orphans—*continued.*

NO. OF SHIPS.	NAME OF SHIP.	NAME OF UNION.		COLONY.
	1848—*continued.*			
4	"Inchinnan" - -	Galway - - - -	22	Sydney.
		Ballyshannon - - -	20	
		Mohill - - - -	25	
		Loughrea - - - -	40	
		Ballina - - - -	22	
		Ballinasloe - - -	15	
		Tuam - - - -	12	
		Sligo - - - -	6	
		Dublin - - - -	2	
			164	
5	"Digby" - -	Boyle - - - -	30	Sydney.
		Loughrea - - - -	8	
		Granard - - - -	12	
		Castlerea - - - -	20	
		Longford - - - -	50	
		Athlone - - -	25	
		Cavan - - - -	60	
		South Dublin - - -	27	
		Letterkenny - - -	1	
			233	
	1849:			
6	"Pemberton" -	Hibernian M. School - -	24	Port Philip.
		South Dublin - - -	7	
		Lisnaskea - - - -	20	
		Limerick - - - -	50	
		Kilrush - - - -	30	
		Nenagh - - - -	40	
		Mallow - - - -	20	
		Roscrea - - - -	60	
		Tipperary - - - -	40	
			291	
7	"Inconstant" - -	Newcastle - - - -	18	South Australia.
		Mullingar - - - -	40	
		Tullamore - - - -	18	
		Mountmellick - - -	22	
		Parsonstown - - -	30	
		Limerick - - - -	24	
		Tipperary - - - -	22	
		North Dublin - - -	12	
			186	
8	"Lady Peel" - -	Carrick-on-Shannon - -	40	Sydney.
		Athy - - - -	20	
		Cashel - - - -	40	
		Baltinglass - - -	16	
		Carlow - -	22	
		Thurles - - - -	30	
			168	

List of the Unions in *Ireland* from which have been selected Female Orphans—*continued.*

NO. OF SHIPS.	NAME OF SHIP.	NAME OF UNION.		COLONY.
	1849—*continued.*			
9	"New Liverpool" -	Gorey - - - -	15	Port Phillip.
		Dungarvon - - -	18	
		Ardee - - - -	22	
		Callan - - - -	18	
		Clonmel - - - -	28	
		Carrick-on-Suir - - -	12	
		Waterford - - - -	25	
		New Ross - - - -	16	
		Enniscorthy - - -	25	
		Shillelagh - - - -	10	
		Balrothery - - -	10	
			199	
10	"Elgin" - -	Skibbereen - - -	85	South Australia.
		Killarney - - - -	35	
		Fermoy - - - -	30	
		Lismore - - - -	25	
		Clonmel - - - -	15	
			190	

Appendix L.

RETURNS showing the Emigration carried on to the Australian Colonies and Cape of Good Hope, during the Year 1848, under the Direction of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners; giving the Name of each Emigrant Ship, its Tonnage and Colonial Destination, Dates of final Departure from London and Plymouth, Number of Emigrants, distinguishing married and unmarried, Male and Female Adults, Children under One and under Fourteen Years of Age, and Total Number of Statute Adults, classed as English, Scotch and Irish; also distinguishing the Number to whom Free Passages and to whom Assisted Passages have been granted, the Number of Emigrants who have been aided after Departure from Home, the Number of Female Pauper Orphans from Ireland, and the Number of such Emigrants as Statute Adults; and also the Contract Price paid for Emigrants per Statute Adult in each Emigrant Ship: And also, the Emigration from the Ports of the United Kingdom during the Years 1846, 1847 and 1848; showing the several Places to which the Emigrants proceeded.

RETURN of Emigration carried on to the Australian Colonies and the Cape of Good Hope during the Year 1848, under the Direction of the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners.

No.	SHIP.	Tonnage.		COLONY.	Contract Price.	Departure.		Married.	Single.		Children.				Souls.	Adults.	English.	Scotch.	Irish.	Remarks.
		Old.	New.			London.	Plymouth.		M.	W.	Boys.		Girls.							
											1/14.	1.	1/14.	1.						
					£. s. d.															
1	Bolton	541	- -	Adelaide, S. A.	10 7 6	31st Dec.	11th Jan.	52	51	31	36	4	35	3	264	221½	235	24	5	
2	William Stewart	499	- -	Port Phillip	11 9 3	14th Jan.	25th Jan.	33	46	50	29	4	33	1	229	193	143	33	53	
3	Thetis	460	- -	Sydney	10 9 -	23d Jan.	6th Feb.	41	33	44	36	1	34	7	227	184	172	45	10	
4	Canton	506	- -	ditto	11 14 -	5th Feb.	20th Feb.	38	42	48	24	6	30	6	232	193	150	11	71	
5	Princess Royal	462	543	Adelaide, S. A.	10 17 6	8th Feb.	3d Mar.	53	25	29	41	3	30	7	241	195½	220	21	—	
6	Adelaide	639	- -	Port Phillip	11 14 -	17th Feb.	13th Mar.	51	41	45	39	3	37	4	271	226	160	43	68	
7	Equestrian	659	- -	Sydney	11 14 -	25th Feb.	17th Mar.	48	48	50	48	2	27	3	274	231½	193	21	60	
8	Westminster	- -	610	Adelaide, S. A.	11 18 6	9th March	20th Mar.	54	28	30	45	3	31	6	251	204	235	15	1	
9	Mahomed Shaw	514	615	Port Phillip	12 17 -	17th March	29th Mar.	46	33	58	25	4	28	4	244	209½	170	47	27	
10	Royal Saxon	510	- -	Sydney	12 14 -	23d March	4th Apr.	42	42	49	26	6	24	5	236	200	139	31	66	
11	Sibella	618	- -	Adelaide, S A.	11 17 -	26th March	6th Apr.	66	26	30	47	5	42	3	285	232½	260	25	—	
12	Duke of Roxburghe	417	496	Cape of Good Hope	8 10 -	31st March	14th Apr.	42	44	26	23	5	26	3	211	178½	186	8	17	
13	Palmira	602	- -	Port Phillip	12 7 6	4th April	14th Apr.	42	46	43	38	4	32	5	252	208	182	64	6	
14	Cornwall	872	- -	ditto	13 9 6	14th April	28th Apr.	57	77	50	38	3	37	9	328	278½	268	41	19	
15	Forfarshire	510	- -	Adelaide, S. A.	12 15 6	16th April	27th Apr.	47	46	40	26	1	19	2	228	202½	193	25	10	
16	Fairlie	755	- -	Sydney	12 19 6	22d April	30th Apr.	48	70	60	34	3	29	1	293	257½	241	26	26	
17	Harply	477	547	Adelaide, S. A.	12 17 6	12th May	- -	43	27	29	59	1	47	5	254	195	254	—	—	
18	Cheapside	- -	621	Port Phillip	14 8 -	- - -	21st May	55	35	19	32	4	24	9	233	192	139	81	13	

(continued)

RETURN of Emigration carried on to the Australian Colonies and the Cape of Good Hope during the Year 1848, &c.—*continued.*

No	SHIP.	Tonnage.		COLONY	Contract Price.	Departure.		Married.	Single.		Children.				Souls.	Adults.	English.	Scotch.	Irish.	REMARKS.
		Old.	New.			London.	Plymouth.		M.	W.	Boys.		Girls.							
											1/14.	1.	1/14.	1.						
					£. s. d.															
19	Constance	485	578	Adelaide, S. A.	14 1 4	16th May	25th May	52	35	24	28	5	16	5	217	185	189	28	—	
20	Earl Grey	571	- -	Sydney	14 12 6	18th May	3d June	4	- -	195	- -	1	1	-	205	203½	- -	- -	205	Irish Orphans.
21	Oriental	507	- -	Cape of Good Hope	10 2 6	26th May	7th June	32	54	25	21	3	19	5	191	163	105	9	77	
22	Berkshire	- -	582	Port Phillip	14 8 6	30th May	9th June	36	56	31	39	3	18	3	222	187½	203	19	—	
23	Castle Eden	774	- -	Sydney	14 17 –	3d June	15th June	51	61	52	40	5	35	4	299	252½	226	55	18	
24	Santipore	436	515	Adelaide, S. A.	12 – –	3d June	16th June	41	30	36	40	6	33	2	229	184½	229	—	—	
25	Tasman	- -	564	Port Phillip	12 9 –	5th June	16th June	42	54	31	26	3	23	1	222	193½	129	89	4	
26	Agincourt	- -	670	Sydney	12 6 6	12th June	- -	50	30	22	56	2	45	6	261	202½	261	—	—	
27	Blonde	613	- -	Port Phillip	11 14 11	16th June	26th June	40	49	52	28	2	27	3	241	208½	90	148	3	
28	Charlotte Jane	612	- -	Sydney	12 6 10	26th June	- -	41	56	36	42	1	34	2	253	212	154	99	—	
29	Bussorah Merchant	530	- -	Adelaide, S. A.	11 14 –	26th June	10th July	48	35	42	33	7	34	2	249	206½	232	17	—	
30	Andromache	468	- -	Port Phillip	12 4 10	7th July	17th July	38	49	31	31	3	37	6	233	190	159	74	—	
31	Poictiers	- -	756	Adelaide, S. A.	11 12 9	11th July	24th July	56	35	42	39	4	36	4	272	226½	253	19	—	
32	Emperor	577	- -	Sydney	12 15 –	13th July	24th July	48	54	30	51	6	45	1	283	228	239	42	2	
33	Nelson	510	- -	Port Phillip	12 9 –	18th July	31st July	45	51	34	38	3	30	4	250	209	147	94	9	
34	Roman Emperor	671	- -	Adelaide, S. A.	10 17 3	10th July	24th July	8	- -	222	1	1	5	1	246	241	- -	- -	246	Irish Orphans.
35	General Hewett	961	- -	Sydney	11 17 –	- -	11th Aug.	56	62	62	37	5	43	9	330	276	270	60	—	
36	Aurora	425	436	Port Phillip	12 6 –	- -	18th Aug.	33	58	30	26	2	20	–	202	177	104	95	3	
37	Artemisia	490	- -	Moreton Bay	12 17 –	30th July	15th Aug.	49	47	19	38	7	27	4	240	196½	153	87	—	
38	Duke of Bedford	720	- -	Adelaide, S. A.	11 14 –	6th Aug.	19th Aug.	62	44	44	47	5	51	5	320	261	307	13	—	
39	Baboo	424	- -	Adelaide, S. A.	10 15 6	13th Aug.	24th Aug.	33	39	48	30	1	25	–	209	180½	180	22	7	
40	Lysander	476	- -	Port Phillip	11 9 3	13th Sept.	21st Sept.	48	25	32	41	7	31	4	236	189	236	—	—	
41	Rajah	352	450	Adelaide, S. A.	10 17 –	30th Aug.	9th Sept.	33	30	35	23	2	24	2	182	154½	182	—	—	
42	Walmer Castle	656	- -	Sydney	11 7 –	1st Sept.	11th Sept.	57	53	43	49	8	28	2	297	248½	247	49	1	
43	Lady Kennaway	583	- -	Port Phillip	11 7 4	- -	11th Sept.	7	- -	196	3	1	3	–	217	213	- -	- -	217	Irish Orphans.
44	Bermondsey	445	507	Twofold Bay	11 19 6	25th Aug.	- -	35	46	30	10	4	21	3	184	161½	73	111	—	
45	Waverley	363	436	Sydney	12 14 –	25th Aug.	3d Sept.	26	36	31	17	1	18	3	158	136½	113	45	—	
46	William Money	834	- -	Adelaide, S. A.	11 14 –	- -	19th Sept.	66	50	51	65	11	57	12	378	294	369	9	—	
47	Maitland	648	- -	Port Phillip	12 8 –	14th Sept.	- -	54	48	48	35	2	40	4	285	241½	111	174	—	
48	Manchester	526	- -	Port Phillip	13 9 6	19th Sept.	28th Sept.	35	47	53	30	2	31	3	236	200½	162	67	7	
49	Thomas Arbuthnot	523	621	Sydney	13 7 6	22d Sept.	3d Oct.	47	43	43	46	1	29	7	263	217½	212	47	4	
50	Samuel Boddington	523	- -	Adelaide, S. A.	13 – –	27th Sept.	8th Oct.	41	40	40	33	6	23	8	232	190	232	—	—	

51	Ds. Northumberland	541	- -	Port Phillip	13 7 6	29th Sept.	10th Oct.	48	37	29	52	4	40	6	264	208	209	55	–	
52	Harbinger	657	750	Sydney	13 14 –	6th Oct.	16th Oct.	48	69	36	39	2	42	3	287	241½	241	42	4	
53	Trafalgar	635	- -	Adelaide, S. A.	13 7 6	6th Oct.	16th Oct.	42	40	52	55	4	37	3	275	222	273	2	—	
54	Thetis	550		Port Phillip	12 9 6	9th Oct.	19th Oct.	44	56	25	30	3	37	8	247	202¼	211	36	—	
55	Walter Morrice	552	666	Sydney	13 7 –	13th Oct.	25th Oct.	43	41	31	44	2	48	6	258	204	197	61	—	
56	Labuan	547		Port Phillip	13 5 –	20th Oct.	8th Nov.	41	51	26	26	5	31	4	225	187½	175	44	6	
57	Steadfast	535		Sydney	13 9 3	23d Oct.	24th Nov.	40	38	36	21	4	36	5	220	182½	155	58	7	
58	Marion	684		Adelaide	11 10 –	27th Oct.	8th Nov.	56	46	55	44	7	29	2	295	249½	289	6	—	
59	Saint Vincent	590	- -	Sydney	12 18 –	- - -	13th Nov.	42	52	32	39	7	30	7	251	202½	217	24	10	
60	Inchinnan	565		ditto	13 2 6	- - -	4th Nov.	6	- -	170	1	–	1	–	184	183	- -	- -	184	Irish Orphans.
61	Francis Ridley	536	- -	Port Phillip	12 8 –	9th Nov.	- -	44	44	36	35	6	38	5	252	204½	220	32	—	
62	Osprey	746	768½	ditto	12 1 10	11th Nov.	24th Nov.	50	79	44	37	3	45	5	313	264	257	45	11	
63	Pakenham	551	660	Adelaide	11 15 –	- - -	16th Dec.	50	44	42	46	4	35	4	275	226½	267	- -	8	
64	Calphurnia	648	- -	ditto	12 8 –	1st Dec.	- -	49	63	44	39	4	33	7	288	241	250	35	3	
65	Mid Lothian	414	- -	Sydney	12 8 8	3d Dec.	- -	42	46	24	27	8	16	3	208	175½	153	53	2	
66	Tory	402	483	ditto	12 5 –	- - -	20th Dec.	36	43	22	28	4	31	2	202	166½	187	- -	15	
67	Digby	787		ditto	11 15 –	- - -	16th Dec.	11	- -	236	- -	–	- -	–	258	258	- -	- -	258	Irish Orphans.
68	Ramillies	635	- -	Adelaide	12 4 –	10th Dec.	- -	45	45	63	37	7	35	5	282	234	253	29	—	
69	General Palmer	531	- -	Port Phillip	12 19 6	11th Dec.	21st Dec.	46	60	21	43	3	33	3	255	211	219	- -	36	
70	Lord George Bentinck	539	- -	ditto	12 9 –	17th Dec.	- -	39	58	37	31	3	32	4	243	204⅓	116	127	—	
71	Mary Shepherd	625		ditto	13 6 3	19th Dec.	- -	42	57	44	34	5	22	6	252	213	195	57	—	
72	Julindur	449	530	Sydney	12 19 6	- - -	28th Dec.	40	39	28	36	2	25	1	211	177½	181	- -	30	
73	Mary Ann	394	- -	Adelaide	12 15 –	- - -	27th Dec.	41	20	27	39	6	36	4	214	166⅔	203	- -	11	
74	David Malcolm	495	- -	ditto	12 19 6	- - -	4th Jan.	49	27	36	37	1	30	7	236	194⅓	233	- -	3	
75	Lady Amherst	446	- -	Sydney	12 12 –	- - -	5th Jan.	40	38	19	38	4	38	4	221	175	185	- -	36	
								3,206	3,170	3,646	2,547	280	2,254	302	18,611	15,628½	13,993	2,739	1,879	

REMARKS, &c.

	Souls.		English.	Scotch.	Irish.
British Emigrants from France	611	Total Number of Free Emigrants	13,102	2,732	1,778
Irish Female Orphans	1,019	Total Number of Assisted Emigrants	891	7	101
	1,630	Grand Total	13,993	2,739	1,879

The Emigrants described as Scotch and Irish are those only taken direct from Scotland and Ireland; but of the Emigrants described as English a considerable Number are Scotch and Irish.

A RETURN (framed from Quarterly Statements furnished by the Commissioners of Customs) of the the 31st

PORTS OF EMBARKATION.	United States.	Central and South America.	NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.						BRITISH WEST INDIES.				
			Canada.	New Brunswick.	Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.	Newfoundland.	Prince Edward's Island.	Total.	Jamaica.	British Guiana.	Trinidad.	Other Settlements.	Total.
London	5,854	—	453	5	—	—	—	458	—	—	—	—	—
Beaumaris	37	—	197	—	—	—	—	197	—	—	—	—	—
Bideford	—	—	119	7	—	—	75	201	—	—	—	—	—
Bridgewater	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol	131	—	59	11	—	5	—	75	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiff	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucester	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
Hull	231	47	573	7	—	—	—	580	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	67,726	306	5,959	186	450	46	193	6,834	75	85	2	131	293
Newcastle	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newport	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Padstow	—	—	296	—	—	—	—	296	—	—	—	—	—
Penzance	—	—	150	—	—	—	—	150	—	—	—	—	—
Plymouth	—	—	594	—	—	—	18	612	—	—	—	—	—
Poole	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	—
St. Ives	—	—	73	—	—	—	—	73	—	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	145	222	—	—	—	—	222	—	—	—	—	—
Stockton	—	—	31	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	—	—	—
Weymouth	—	—	38	—	—	—	—	38	—	—	—	—	—
Whitehaven	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	5
TOTAL, England	74,012	498	8,795	216	450	51	286	9,798	75	85	2	136	298
Aberdeen	—	—	277	—	18	—	—	295	—	—	—	—	—
Alloa	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Ayr	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—
Dundee	7	—	76	—	—	—	—	76	—	—	—	—	—
Glasgow	1,150	27	1,187	4	22	—	—	1,213	19	13	18	29	79
Greenock	—	—	32	34	17	60	—	143	16	19	30	7	72
Inverness	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	44	—	—	—	—	—
Leith	—	—	12	—	1	—	—	13	8	—	—	6	14
Port Glasgow	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	16	—	3	3	14	20
Stornoway	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Wick	—	—	81	—	—	—	—	81	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL, Scotland	1,157	27	1,725	60	58	60	—	1,903	43	35	51	56	185
Baltimore	—	—	537	1,546	—	—	—	2,083	—	—	—	—	—
Belfast	881	—	2,674	—	—	—	—	2,674	—	5	—	—	5
Cork	1,383	—	2,244	3,439	—	—	—	5,683	—	—	—	—	—
Drogheda	—	—	—	65	—	—	—	65	—	—	—	—	—
Dublin	861	—	1,754	185	—	—	—	1,939	—	—	—	—	—
Galway	290	—	443	999	—	—	—	1,442	—	—	—	—	—
Limerick	—	—	4,386	96	—	—	—	4,482	—	—	—	—	—
Londonderry	2,965	—	1,018	1,421	—	—	—	2,439	—	—	—	—	—
Newry	371	—	388	134	—	—	—	522	—	—	—	—	—
Ross	2	—	857	—	—	87	—	944	—	—	—	—	—
Sligo	226	—	4,798	682	—	—	—	5,480	—	—	—	—	—
Tralee	—	—	1,163	629	69	—	—	1,861	—	—	—	—	—
Waterford	91	—	1,180	127	121	325	—	1,753	—	—	—	—	—
Westport	—	—	280	91	—	—	—	371	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL, Ireland	7,070	—	21,722	9,414	190	412	—	31,738	—	5	—	—	5
GRAND TOTAL, United Kingdom	82,239	525	32,242	9,690	698	523	286	43,439	118	125	53	192	488

Colonial Land and Emigration Office, March 1849.

EMIGRANTS who embarked from the several PORTS of the UNITED KINGDOM during the Year ended December 1846.

Foreign West Indies.	East Indies.	Hong Kong.	China.	Mauritius.	Western Africa and Madeira.	Cape of Good Hope.	AUSTRALIAN COLONIES. Sydney.	Port Phillip.	South Australia.	New Zealand.	Total.	GRAND TOTAL.	PORTS OF EMBARKATION.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	425	—	425	6,737	London.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	234	Beaumaris.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	201	Bideford.
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	Bridgewater.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	207	Bristol.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	Cardiff.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	Gloucester.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	858	Hull.
50	63	18	4	19	99	36	28	21	1	6	56	75,504	Liverpool.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	Newcastle.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	Newport.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	296	Padstow.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	150	Penzance.
—	—	—	—	—	—	273	—	—	1,636	—	1,636	2,521	Plymouth.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	Poole.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	73	St. Ives.
—	—	—	—	—	—	235	—	—	90	—	90	692	Southampton.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31	Stockton.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	Weymouth.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	Whitehaven.
50	63	18	4	20	99	544	28	21	2,152	6	2,207	87,611	TOTAL, England.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	295	Aberdeen.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	Alloa.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	Ayr.
—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	86	Dundee.
11	17	—	—	2	—	—	—	49	—	—	49	2,548	Glasgow.
—	24	—	—	19	6	—	8	3	—	—	11	275	Greenock.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	44	Inverness.
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	8	2	—	10	38	Leith.
—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38	Port Glasgow.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	Stornoway.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	81	Wick.
11	46	—	—	21	6	1	8	60	2	—	70	3,427	TOTAL, Scotland.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,083	Baltimore.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3,560	Belfast.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,066	Cork.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	65	Drogheda.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,800	Dublin.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,732	Galway.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,482	Limerick.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,404	Londonderry.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	893	Newry.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	946	Ross.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,706	Sligo.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,861	Tralee.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,844	Waterford.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	371	Westport.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	38,813	TOTAL, Ireland.
61	109	18	4	41	105	545	36	81	2,154	6	2,277	129,851	GRAND TOTAL, United Kingdom.

S. WALCOTT, Secretary.

A RETURN (framed from Quarterly Statements furnished by the Commissioners of Customs) of the
the 31st

PORTS OF EMBARKATION.	United States.	Central and South America.	NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.						BRITISH WEST INDIES.				
			Canada.	New Brunswick.	Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.	Newfoundland.	Prince Edward's Island.	Total.	Jamaica.	British Guiana.	Trinidad.	Other Settlements.	Total.
London	9,684*	32	1,834*	10	—	—	—	1,844*	—	—	—	—	—
Aberystwyth	70	—	230	—	—	—	—	230	—	—	—	—	—
Beaumaris	80	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bideford	—	—	24	—	—	—	16	40	—	—	—	—	—
Bridgewater	—	—	55	—	—	—	—	55	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol	446	—	145	—	—	—	41	186	—	—	—	—	—
Caernarvon	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiff	—	6	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Falmouth	—	—	211	—	—	—	—	211	—	—	—	—	—
Gloucester	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—
Hull	48	—	286	2	—	—	—	288	—	—	2	—	2
Liverpool	102,624	361	26,462	1,425	565	133	459	29,044	46	65	9	67	187
Maryport	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	—	—	—
Milford	—	—	31	—	—	—	—	31	—	—	—	—	—
Newcastle	15	1	1	3	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Newport	12	2	8	8	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—
Padstow	—	—	646	—	—	—	—	646	—	—	—	—	—
Penzance	—	—	66	15	—	—	—	81	—	—	—	—	—
Plymouth	353	—	1,121	—	—	—	20	1,141	—	—	—	—	—
Portsmouth	525	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poole	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
St. Ives	—	—	63	—	—	—	—	63	—	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	—	169	—	—	—	—	169	—	—	—	—	—
Truro	—	—	101	—	—	—	—	101	—	—	—	—	—
Weymouth	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—
Whitehaven	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6
TOTAL, England	113,870	402	31,505	1,469	565	133	536	34,208	52	65	11	67	195
Aberdeen	—	—	364	3	71	—	—	438	—	—	—	—	—
Alloa	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Dundee	5	—	65	2	—	—	—	67	—	—	—	—	—
Glasgow	3,470	21	1,882	18	99	7	—	2,006	17	24	10	12	63
Greenock	299	—	1,133	29	13	96	—	1,271	9	18	30	10	67
Kirkwall	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leith	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	3	—	—	7	10
Port Glasgow	1	—	18	17	—	—	—	35	—	8	13	7	28
Wick	—	—	282	—	116	—	—	398	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL, Scotland	3,782	21	3,747	70	299	103	—	4,219	29	50	53	36	168
Ballina	—	—	1,035	734	—	—	—	1,769	—	—	—	—	—
Ballyshannon	—	—	—	444	—	—	—	444	—	—	—	—	—
Baltimore	—	—	—	737	—	—	—	737	—	—	—	—	—
Belfast	3,938	—	6,911	126	22	—	—	7,059	—	1	—	—	—
Coleraine	67	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cork	4,360	—	9,734	3,101	324	—	—	13,159	—	—	—	—	—
Dublin	2,435	—	6,536	164	—	—	—	6,700	—	—	—	—	—
Dundalk	113	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Galway	2,478	—	879	2,062	683	—	—	3,624	—	—	—	—	—
Limerick	1,784	—	9,373	571	—	—	—	9,944	—	—	—	—	—
Londonderry	5,645	—	3,726	2,909	—	—	—	6,635	—	—	—	—	—
Newry	1,007	—	1,499	448	—	—	—	1,947	—	—	—	—	—
Ross	231	—	4,396	343	—	92	—	4,831	—	—	—	—	—
Sligo	1,035	—	6,754	3,411	—	—	—	10,165	—	—	—	—	—
Tralee	58	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waterford	956	—	3,020	—	107	665	—	3,792	—	—	—	—	—
Westport	385	—	447	—	—	—	—	447	—	—	—	—	—
Wexford	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL, Ireland	24,502	—	54,310	15,050	1,136	757	—	71,253	—	1	—	—	1
GRAND TOTAL, United Kingdom	142,154	423	89,562	16,589	2,000	993	536	109,680	81	116	64	103	364

* The Numbers from London include 8,651 foreign Emigrants

Colonial Land and Emigration Office, March 1849.

EMIGRANTS who embarked from the several PORTS of the UNITED KINGDOM during the Year ended December 1847.

Foreign West Indies.	East Indies.	Hong Kong.	China.	Mauritius.	Western Africa and Madeira.	Cape of Good Hope.	Oahu.	AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.						Grand Total.
								Sydney.	Port Phillip.	South Australia.	Van Diemen's Land.	New Zealand.	Total.	
—	—	—	—	—	—	136	—	—	160	1,027	—	68	1,255	12,951*
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	300
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	80
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	55
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	632
—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	211
—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
39	49	3	9	—	83	13	1	24	4	10	8	—	46	132,459
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
9	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	40
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	646
—	—	—	—	—	—	292	—	700	119	2,439	—	—	2,258	81
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	24	—	—	24	5,044
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	549
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	63
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	169
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	101
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9
48	52	3	9	—	85	442	1	724	283	3,500	8	68	4,583	153,898
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	438
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
5	23	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72
—	10	—	—	3	13	—	—	2	56	—	—	—	58	5,646
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	29	—	—	248	277	1,940
—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7
—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	19	12	—	—	31	46
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67
5	34	—	—	3	15	3	—	2	104	12	—	248	366	8,616
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,769
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	444
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	737
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10,998
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	67
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	17,519
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,135
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	113
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6,102
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,728
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12,280
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,954
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5,062
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,200
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	58
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,748
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	832
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	95,756
53	86	3	9	3	100	445	1	726	387	3,512	8	316	4,949	258,270

proceeding *viâ* that Port to the United States, and 1,667 to Canada.

S. WALCOTT, Secretary.

A RETURN of the EMIGRANTS who embarked from the PORTS of the UNITED KINGDOM during the Year
Customs at the

PORTS OF EMBARKATION.	United States.	Central and South America.	NORTH AMERICAN COLONIES.							WEST INDIES.				
			Canada.	New Brunswick.	Nova Scotia and Cape Breton.	Newfoundland.	Prince Edward's Island.	Vancouver's Island.	Total.	Jamaica.	British Guiana.	Trinidad.	Other Settlements.	Total.
London	12,373	13	1,025	31	20	29	14	33	1,152	270	87	13	211	581
Beaumaris	49	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Berwick	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bideford	—	—	7	—	8	—	5	—	20	—	—	—	—	—
Bridgewater	—	—	118	—	—	—	—	—	118	—	—	—	—	—
Bristol	1,304	—	135	—	—	—	22	—	157	—	—	—	—	—
Caernarvon	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cardiff	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Falmouth	173	—	206	—	—	—	—	—	206	—	—	—	—	—
Hull	48	—	310	—	—	—	—	—	310	—	—	—	—	—
Liverpool	127,496	832	1,812	97	106	47	18	—	2,080	47	86	—	68	201
Maryport	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	—
Newcastle	69	—	9	—	6	—	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—
Newport	47	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	6
Padstow	—	—	568	—	—	—	—	—	568	—	—	—	—	—
Penzance	570	—	379	—	—	—	—	—	379	—	—	—	—	—
Plymouth	—	—	996	—	—	—	—	—	996	—	—	—	—	—
Saint Ives	—	—	57	—	—	—	—	—	57	—	—	—	—	—
Southampton	—	—	218	—	—	—	—	—	218	—	—	—	—	—
Stockton	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
Swansea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Truro	—	—	68	—	—	—	—	—	68	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL, England	142,149	845	5,922	128	140	76	59	33	6,358	317	173	13	285	788
Aberdeen	—	—	304	—	13	—	—	—	317	—	—	—	—	—
Alloa	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Arbroath	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—
Ayr	—	—	2	19	—	—	—	—	21	—	—	—	—	—
Dundee	—	—	73	—	—	—	—	—	73	—	—	—	—	—
Glasgow	5,761	20	1,688	3	378	—	—	—	2,069	5	2	5	10	22
Greenock	1,480	—	264	6	15	102	—	—	387	11	11	3	1	26
Irvine	—	—	28	—	—	—	—	—	28	—	3	—	—	3
Leith	—	1	22	10	—	—	—	—	32	—	—	—	2	2
Port Glasgow	—	—	3	25	—	—	—	—	82	—	4	—	4	8
Wick	—	—	731	—	156	—	—	—	887	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL, Scotland	7,241	21	3,125	66	562	102	—	—	3,855	16	20	8	17	61
Ballina	—	—	186	—	—	—	—	—	186	—	—	—	—	—
Baltimore	295	—	73	287	—	—	—	—	360	—	—	—	—	—
Belfast	6,800	—	1,930	—	—	—	—	—	1,930	—	—	—	—	—
Cork	8,600	—	1,838	1,181	—	2	—	—	3,021	2	—	—	4	6
Donegal	177	—	539	265	—	—	—	—	804	—	—	—	—	—
Drogheda	494	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dublin	7,363	—	317	—	—	—	—	—	317	—	—	—	—	—
Galway	3,179	—	652	404	—	—	—	—	1,056	—	—	—	—	—
Killybegs	—	—	81	—	—	—	—	—	81	—	—	—	—	—
Killala	—	—	184	—	—	—	—	—	184	—	—	—	—	—
Limerick	2,777	—	6,112	511	—	—	—	—	6,623	—	—	—	—	—
Londonderry	5,888	—	342	846	—	—	—	—	1,188	—	—	—	—	—
Newry	1,384	—	384	110	—	—	—	—	494	—	—	—	—	—
New Ross	204	—	1,127	382	—	—	—	—	1,509	—	—	—	—	—
Sligo	569	—	1,204	58	—	—	—	—	1,262	—	—	—	—	—
Tralee	—	—	308	—	—	—	—	—	308	—	—	—	—	—
Waterford	222	—	659	98	—	163	—	—	920	—	—	—	—	—
Westport	817	—	366	10	—	—	—	—	376	—	—	—	—	—
Wexford	74	—	233	—	—	—	—	—	233	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL, Ireland	38,843	—	16,535	4,152	—	165	—	—	20,852	2	—	—	4	6
GRAND TOTAL, United Kingdom	188,233	866	25,582	4,346	702	343	59	33	31,065	335	193	21	306	855

Colonial Land and Emigration Office, March 1849.

ended 31st December 1848, framed from Statements furnished by the Emigration Officers and Officers of several Ports.

East Indies.	Hong Kong.	Mauritius.	West Africa, Saint Helena and Madeira.	Cape of Good Hope.	Falkland Islands.	AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.							Grand Total.
						New South Wales.		South Australia.	Van Diemen's Land.	Western Australia.	New Zealand.	Total.	
						Sydney District.	Port Phillip District.						
1,139	78	56	219	1,206	2	5,380	4,960	4,548	218	62	751	15,919	32,738
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	118
—	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	6	—	—	—	12	1,473
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	379
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	358
—	14	—	157	42	12	80	213	5	—	—	—	298	131,132
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	84
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	54
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	568
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	949
—	—	—	—	195	—	2,104	2,016	3,194	—	—	—	7,314	8,505
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	57
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	218
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	78	—	—	—	78	78
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	68
1,139	92	56	376	1,444	14	7,570	7,189	7,832	218	62	751	23,622	176,883
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	317
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	21
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	73
20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,892
10	—	—	—	—	—	47	193	—	—	—	—	240	2,143
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	31
—	—	—	—	—	—	5	17	20	—	—	—	42	78
E. Indies 7 (Aden) 4	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	887
41	—	—	3	1	—	52	210	20	—	—	—	282	11,505
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	186
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	655
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,730
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,627
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	981
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	494
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,680
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4,235
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	81
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	184
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9,400
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7,076
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,878
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,713
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,831
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	308
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1,737
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	598
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	307
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	59,701
1,180	92	56	379	1,445	14	7,622	7,399	7,852	218	62	751	23,904	248,089

S. WALCOTT, Secretary.

COPY of a LETTER addressed to Her Majesty's SECRETARY of STATE for the HOME DEPARTMENT, by *Edward Rushton*, Esquire, Stipendiary Magistrate of *Liverpool*, bearing date 21st April 1849.

I HEREBY certify that the annexed is a true copy.

Whitehall, 28 April 1849. G. CORNEWALL LEWIS.

Sir, Liverpool, 21 April 1849.

AT the request of a Deputation of the Finance Committee of the Council, and also of the Select Vestry of this borough, I have undertaken to represent to you the results of the Irish immigration into the town of Liverpool, and to suggest, on behalf of the authorities already named, measures which in their opinions would tend to lessen the burthen on the public resources of the borough and parish of Liverpool. I am perfectly aware, from my former communications with you, that many of the facts which I shall have to state are already known to you; but I am induced to recapitulate them, in order to place before you, in one letter, a general outline of the evils of which the people here most loudly complain.

You have already heard from me, that between the 13th day of January and the 13th day of Decmber 1847, both days inclusive, 296,231 persons landed in this port from Ireland. Of this vast number about 130,000 emigrated to the United States; that some 50,000 were passengers on business, and the remainder mere paupers, half naked and starving, landed for the most part during the winter, and becoming immediately on landing applicants for parochial relief. You already know the immediate results of this accumulation of misery in the crowded town of Liverpool; of the cost of relief at once rendered necessary to prevent the thousands of hungry and naked Irish perishing in our streets; and also of the cost of the pestilence which generally follows in the train of famine and misery such as we then had to encounter. I do not enter into the details of this misery further than to say that, though the pecuniary cost to the town of Liverpool was enormous, the loss of valuable lives was yet much more to be deplored; hundreds of patients perished notwithstanding all efforts made to save them; and 10 Roman Catholic and one Protestant clergymen, many parochial officers, and many medical men, who devoted themselves to the task of alleviating the sufferings of the wretched, died in the discharge of these high duties.

I believe I have, in my former letters to you, stated my conviction that the pressure of this miserable population would materially affect the health and character of our own labouring classes; my worst anticipations have been realized. I am unfortunately enabled, by the results of my daily experience, to show you how much the health of the people has suffered; and I am also enabled, by exact details, to show you how greatly the Irish misery has increased crime in Liverpool. In the year 1846, 18,171 prisoners were brought befoe the police court; in 1847 the number increased to 19,719; and in 1848 a further increase took place, and the numbers were 22,036. In the year 1845 the number of persons committed for trial and summarily convicted for felony, amounted to 3,889; in 1846 the number increased to 4,740; in 1847, to 6,510; and in 1848, to 7,714. I do not possess the means of accurately distinguishing the countries to which the criminals belong before the year 1848. Previous to that time I had, however, directed my attention to the subject, and I saw from day to day that the poor Irish population forced upon us in a state of wretchedness which cannot be described, would, within 12 hours after they landed, be found among one of three classes; viz., paupers, vagrants, or thieves. Few became claimants for parochial relief, for in that case they soon discovered they might be at once sent back to Ireland. Many of these forlorn creatures became beggars; many of them thieves. The number of Irish brought as prisoners into the police court during the year 1848, was 8,794; the number of Irish sent to trial or summarily convicted of felony during the same period, was 4,661; the English duriug the same period were 5,104. Now the Irish form but about one-fourth of the population, and yet they give very nearly half the criminals. The truth is, that gaols, such as the gaol of the borough of Liverpool, afford the wretched and unfortunate Irish better food, shelter and raiment, and more cleanliness, than it is to be feared many of them ever experienced elsewhere; and hence it constantly happens that Irish vagrants who have offered to them the choice of being sent to Ireland or to gaol, in a great majority of cases desire to go to prison; the fact being that the English gaols are excellent winter quarters for starving Irish paupers; and, in consquence, the gaol of Liverpool, which ought never to contain more than 500 prisoners, has now 1,100 within its walls; the cost of all this to the people of Liverpeol, both in the augmentation of parochial and of legal charges

is

is absolutely enormous. It cannot be surprising that the people of this place, who find the rates for the relief of the poor daily augmenting, can be satisfied under the pressure which they sustain; and the parishioners of Liverpool think they have a claim to such relief from their present intolerable burthens, as may be fair and practicable. Beyond all doubt, the towns on the sea-coast in Ireland, and many of the landed proprietors in Ireland, furnish the wretched Irish with the means of coming to Liverpool. I have often discovered this from the examination of the poor; and only the other day an Irish offender, when asked where he came from, said he was sent with 1*s.* from the Irish workhouse to Liverpool. These poor people are brought from Ireland in crowds, on deck, even in most inclement weather; unfortunately few of us remember more severe weather in April than during the last week; yet, from the 14th to the 19th instant, 4,412 deck passengers arrived in Liverpool from Ireland.

The people here think it right, under these circumstances, that they should have more protection than the existing law affords. In the first place, they think that the provisions of the Act for the removal of Irish Poor should be enlarged, so as to render all Irish persons who have been once removed to Ireland under the powers of that Act, and who again return to England and become chargeable, liable to be punished as rogues and vagabonds; and they also think that powers ought to be given to remove to Ireland not only those who become chargeable by receiving parochial relief, but also all who are found begging, or who have been convicted of felony. It is also deemed absolutely necessary that the Board of Trade should at once enforce, by the granting of certificates under the Act 11 & 12 Vict. c. 81, the limitation of the number of deck passengers brought in steamers from Ireland. This is a measure demanded by common humanity, as well as by sound policy, as it regards the towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire. It would be out of place to do more than to state the amount of evil which the inhabitants of Liverpool have to bear, arising out of the unfortunate state of Ireland; I do not, therefore, attempt to offer any opinion about the matter, but I do most anxiously represent to you the great danger, moral as well as physical, which cannot but be generated by allowing the continued unchecked immigration of the miserable of the Irish people into such towns as Liverpool.

The inhabitants feel the pecuniary cost as a sore evil; bnt they also feel and fear other results which may permanently deteriorate the condition, the habits, and the morals of the labouring classes of their own countrymen.

I am, &c.

Right Hon. Sir G. Grey, Bart., &c. &c.

(signed) *Edward Rushton.*

Appendix M.

C. D.

REPORTS from *Thomas Skilling*, relative to the Spade Cultivation of 50 Acres, by Lord *Wallscourt*, at *Oranmore*.

PRODUCE of the Crops cultivated on 50 Acres, Plantation Measure, of Land at *Ardfry*, County of *Galway*, the Property of Lord *Wallscourt*, under the Direction and Superintendence of *Thomas Skilling*, by means of the Sum of 200 *l.* sterling, lent by the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends for the purpose, who also found the Seeds.

25 Acres, Turnips				
3 „ Carrots				
2 „ Parsnips				50 Acres.
10 „ Cabbages				
10 „ Barley				

	£.	s.	d.
140 Barrels, Barley, at - - - 14*s.*	98	–	–
30 Tons, Carrots and Parsnips, at 2 *l.*	60	–	–
3 Acres, Cabbages, at - - - 5 *l.*	15	–	–
7 Acres, Moor Turnips, at - - 6 *l.*	42	–	–
8 Acres, Moor Turnips, at - - 15 *l.*	120	–	–
£.	335	–	–

In addition to the above, we have,—

1 acre of cabbage plants for spring.
4 acres late planted, to come into use in May and June.
Besides 5 acres of fallow ground dug so late that we could not get it into crop this spring, from the constant wet weather.

These latter items you perceive I do not take into account, as the profits on them are in prospect, but the labour was given, and all the above valuations are certainly under the mark. The amount as estimated will all be clear the cost of carriage, and marketing, I calculate, will be discharged by the additional quantities and prices; and from all these circumstances it is manifest our experiment has been eminently successful, as with regard to ourselves, and immensely more so in regard to the interests, comforts, and welfare of our population. There is nothing more certain than that the course taken by your society is the correct one, in every respect—the encouragement of industry and useful information—at the same time cultivating the land that might otherwise lie idle, raising from it in the shortest possible time the greatest amount of human food. The Government and Parliament must do something to stop starvation and reduce the poor-rates; if they would simply take the course you have taken, so far as practicable, they would yet save the country.

(signed) *Thomas Skilling.*

The above statement from Thomas Skilling was so satisfactory, and showed so profitable a return, besides the great benefits the poor themselves derived from the undertaking, that the committee proposed to allow the 200 *l.* to remain with Lord Wallscourt and Thomas Skilling for the like purpose this season, and to add thereto a further sum of 250 *l.* to enable them to cultivate 100 acres instead of 50 acres.

They have retained the 200 *l.*, and have this season cultivated another 50 acres, and Thomas Skilling speaks in very satisfactory terms of his present crops.

Circumstances, however, prevented Lord Wallscourt and Thomas Skilling from accepting the further loan of the 250 *l.*

(signed) *Wm. Todhunter.*

28 May 1849.

Ardfry, Oranmore, County Galway, 30 May 1849.

In stating my opinion from practical knowledge and experience of the results of the experiment made last and the present year by "The Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends," in advancing, interest free, 200 *l.* for the purpose of cultivating 50 Irish acres of land, by spade labour, in green crops for human food, on the estates of Lord Wallscourt, of Ardfry, in the county of Galway, and under my immediate superintendence and direction, I am happy to say that the experiment here has been completely successful; inasmuch as 50 acres of land that might otherwise have lain waste, produced fine crops of turnips,

turnips, carrots, parsnips, cabbages, &c. &c., a quantity of human food at least three times the value of the money expended; supplied employment, and of course subsistence to a multitude of human beings, the families of the surrounding neighbourhood, of all ages and sexes. This money, so expended last year and the present, has, the people acknowledge, and say with gratitude, saved the lives of thousands; I say without exaggeration, of many hundreds. But it was not alone in the employment of the people, the raising of food, and the saving of human life, that your experiment has been so eminently successful and beneficial to the country; there has been, at the same time, an immense mass of most important knowledge and useful information disseminated through the country, where such knowledge was the most required. The people employed were taught to deepen, clean and prepare the land, for all these now essential crops; to prepare and apply the manure; sow the various seeds; clean, cultivate and manage the crops afterwards up to maturity. This was true education; had such knowledge been disseminated and acquired years ago, the dire calamity of the potato blight would not have produced such disastrous results. If further proof were required of the real and substantial advantages gained by so instructing the people in the uses and management of a new class of valuable crops, it will be found in the increased demand for the various seeds this season, and which your committee so kindly and liberally granted. These I distributed in a few days to persons from all the surrounding neighbourhoods, who came in great numbers, having experienced the benefits of last year; and at the present time, adjoining every cottage and farm-house, are to be found patches of cabbages, parsnips, carrots, &c. &c., and the people are busy preparing, manuring the ground, and sowing their turnips; two years ago these crops were unknown and unappreciated.

In conclusion, Sir, I repeat that your experiment here has been entirely successful, as can be proved by ocular demonstration. The efforts of the Friends have all been in the right direction, carried out prudently and judiciously; the advancing of money for cultivation, and distribution of seeds; a comparative trifle, 200*l.*, has produced many thousands worth in charity, the preservation of human life, and the improvement of the country; and still your money is safe and forthcoming.

The peculiar advantages of cultivating the land as a means of employing and relieving the people over all kinds of public works, such as roads, drainage, railways, &c. &c., are these: in the latter case, it is only the able-bodied, strong, and heads of families, and these collected from distant parts of the country, that can or will be advantageously employed. Where only one of a family of six or eight is earning even good wages, it is insufficient for all; the chief portion are idle and starving; but in cultivation, male and female, even children, can be advantageously employed, and though the wages of each be moderate, the aggregate earning is considerable and able to support the whole; not to speak of the important advantages of having them employed and taught industry: all this the Relief Committee of "The Society of Friends" clearly understood and availed themselves of, which rendered their funds and exertions so valuable to the country.

I shall report to you, from time to time, the progress of our cultivation and the state of the crops, which I am happy to say look remarkably well at present.

Central Relief Committee,
Society of Friends, Dublin.

(signed) *Thomas Skilling.*

E.

STATEMENT of Green Crop Seeds given by the Government, and distributed by the Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends in 1847.

Counties.	Lbs.	Parties.	Acres.	——
Armagh - - -	160	51	25	crops good; seed sound.
Clare - - -	257	82	26	seed sound; crop middling.
Cork - - -	4,259	6,000	1,214	varied particulars.
Donegal - - -	400	376	77	seed good; crop excellent.
Fermanagh - -	420	430	97	seed good; crop excellent.
Galway - - -	3,000	4,324	830	seed good; some heavy; some light.
Kildare - - -	400	341	113	no particulars.
King's County - -	1,918	1,777	650	all grew; crops good.
Leitrim - - -	2,500	2,753	664	no missing; crop excellent.
Longford - - -	320	408	83	no particulars returned.
Mayo - - -	16,666	16,701	4,578	no missing; crop good and heavy.
Roscommon - -	4,094	5,687	828	no missing; crop no better.
Sligo - - -	320	615	140	seed good; crop fair.
Tipperary - - -	720	430	158	seed good; crop various.
Tyrone - - -	380	546	104	seed good; crop middling.
Westmeath - -	200	322	41	seed good; crop good.
Wexford - - -	120	60	24	seed good; crop fair.
	36,196	40,903	9,652	

Distributed - - - - - -	36,196 lbs.
Parties to whom given - - - -	40,903 persons.
Acres cropped - - - - - -	9,652 acres.
9,652 acres, at 20 tons per acre - -	193,040 tons.
Distributed to Mayo by W. Todhunter	16,666 lbs.
Distributed in Mayo by E. J. T. White	15,680 „
	32,346 lbs.

Which saved about, or over, 8,885 acres, and produced not less than 177,700 tons of food in this one county of Mayo last season.

These 36,196 lbs. of seed were not received until after the usual period for sowing had passed, and its value was then very trifling, and many of our friends were of opinion that the chances of a crop were so hopeless it would be better not to make the distribution, yet with an expenditure amounting to the trifling sum of 110*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.* for carriage per mail, fly, boat, &c., 193,040 tons of food were added to the resources of the country last season by this distribution, and by E. J. T. White's to Mayo 86,140 tons.

Wm. Todhunter.

F.

Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends,
43, Fleet-street.

EXTRACTS from the LETTERS received from some of our Correspondents in reply to a printed Circular forwarded on the 22d of 1st month (January) 1848, requesting Information as to the RESULTS produced by the gratuitous Distribution of the GREEN CROP SEEDS placed under the care of this Committee for the purpose, by Sir Randolph J. Routh, at the end of the last Season, and further inquiring whether a like grant made timely this Season would, in their judgment, be likely to prove beneficial.

[The memoranda in margin show the number of lbs. of seed distributed in the county, as well as the portion entrusted to the care of the writer, of said gross quantity.]

Donegal. Lbs.
26, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
Seed to County - 400
To Party - - 240

John Hamilton, Esq., J. P. and D. L., *St. Ernans.*—I answer to your circular about turnip and other seeds; I have much gratification in being able to state that those received from you last year succeeded well, and proved of much advantage; the produce is most favourably reported of.

Donegal.
25, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
Seed to Party - 80

Charles F. Stewart, clerk, *Horn Head.*—I am happy in having this opportunity of expressing, on behalf of the poor of this district, our grateful sense of the benefits conferred on them by the distribution of turnip seed last season by your Society. In my opinion no one step taken last year has tended so much to avert the suffering of the present year. The grant of turnip seed will be, for the very poorest, a most beneficial and judicious gift.

Fermanagh.
25, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
Seed to County - 420
To Party - 260

Sidney Smith, D. D., *Brookeboro.*—I have received your circular touching the distribution of seed. The good done last year was far greater than I expected, or the poor people themselves; many a poor man is now thankful for the suggestion, and for the donation of seed; in fact, it has greatly increased the stock of food, and the turnip has been a great favourite. Last year the distribution was for 80 acres, but this year it would be easily 300 acres, with the land much better prepared and cultivated. In the return of the kinds and quantities now forwarded, I may perhaps have made my entries more in accordance with our wants and necessities rather than your ability to give.

Galway.
26, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
Seed to County 3,000
To Party - - 80

Robert Browne, clerk, *Aughterard.*—I am of opinion a great deal of good has been effected by the turnip seed distributed to the poor last season. The turnips now occupy the place of potatoes in our markets.

Galway.
29, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 360

John Cather, clerk, *Annadown.*—I have continually heard from the poorer class of land occupiers to whom the seeds were issued, that the produce of them has been their chief support throughout the beginning of winter, and we have here no other substitute for the potato but the turnips; and wherever they can be got, they are eagerly bought and used, mixed with meal for food; a great breadth of land on which wheat was sown last year, must this be cropped with turnips, or not at all.

Galway.
26, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 120

Thomas O'Connor Donelan, Esq., J. P., *Sylane.*—I have the sincerest pleasure in bearing testimony to the vast good that resulted from the distribution of the seeds last year; they succeeded far beyond my most sanguine expectation; they could not before be induced to sow green crops; you have effected what failed the proprietors. I think it very wise to have given notice of your intentions this year; it will spur them on to prepare their ground. I send the return of the kinds and quantities of the seeds required.

Patrick

Patrick Kennedy, Portumna.—I fully concur in the general opinion that nothing could have been better calculated to alleviate the distress of the poor than the distribution of the seeds last season; and great as were the advantages conferred then, they would prove much greater this season, as there is not half the quantity of land sown under wheat.

Galway. Lbs.
3, 2 (Feb.) 1848.
To Party - - 640

Robert Martin, Ross.—The turnip crop produced from the distribution of seeds, for the most part from the Society of Friends, has been the saving of hundreds of lives up to this period.

Galway.
28, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 380

G. F. O'Fflahertie, Esq., J. P., *Ardraone, Aughterard.*—I had a liberal supply from your Committee last season, and the poor people have never ceased to speak of the advantages they derived from it. Many have declared it was far more beneficial than the relief given at the soup-kitchens, and have anxiously inquired whether I should be likely to receive any this season, as the seed they got from you grew well. The supply was received at a time when they had despaired of sowing any crop; and in addition to a plentiful return of turnips, they have the important advantage of having a little soil for corn this spring. I look upon this means of relief as the very best, because it promotes industry, and induces the people to adopt a different and very valuable system of cultivation.

Galway.
26, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 520

General *Thompson*, J. P., *Salinch, Killeries.*—Late as it was in the season, and with all the disadvantages of bad tillage, I can safely say the services conferred upon the poor were invaluable; and should a grant be made this year, it will be better attended to, as the people are now aware of the great use it has been of.

Galway.
28, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 140

William B. Armstrong, Esq., J. P., *Banagher.*—I beg to report, that all the seeds were distributed to the small holders only who were badly off, and for the last four months these turnips have been of the greatest use as food for the poor. Were it not for the much abused public works, a large portion of the land of this part of the country would not last year have been sown with corn; the employment enabled the small farmers to spare their seed from being converted into food.

King's County.
25, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To County - - 1,918
To Party - - 640

Andrew Hogg, clerk, *Cloone.*—It affords me much pleasure to have an opportunity of stating the incalculable amount of good that has been done in this locality by last year's distribution of turnip seed, &c., forwarded by your Society to me. I can assure you that up to the present, more than 1,700 of our population have been kept from actual starvation by the produce of the seed so distributed which you so benevolently supplied. It will afford me the greatest gratification to act as almoner in distributing a similar quantity this season, as per return below. I should much wish to be instrumental in getting some flax seed to this neighbourhood; it is a most beneficial crop, and would encourage industry.

Leitrim.
28, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To County - - 2,500
To Party - - 1,700

N. Loftus Tottenham, Esq., J. P., & D. L.—I hope you will be able to do something in the way of giving out turnip seeds this season again, as nothing in my mind was so useful as your doing so last year. It was cause of many and many a person sowing that never would have done so had they not got the seed gratuitously. The crop also proved a very good one, as the seed was sound and all of it grew, which much of the seed sold in the country shops did not. Large breadths were sown in my part of the country, and a great deal of use in the way of food was made of the crops arising from it. I would advise your Committee to restrict their issue to turnip seed alone; the cultivation is easy and simple, and pretty sure to succeed, which neither carrot or mangle are.

Leitrim.
27, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 740

Samuel Bourns, Rossport, Erris.—I gladly add my testimony to the great advantages resulting to the poor residing within 10 miles round my residence, from the turnip seed, kindly sent me for distribution last season. Very many, up to the present period, have lived almost wholly on the produce. I trust to be able to induce my poor neighbours to prepare their little farms for an earlier saving this year. We now rejoice in the prospect of obtaining even green crop seeds, and will hail their arrival as a great boon.

Mayo.
26, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To County - 16,666
To Party - 540

William Thomas Campbell, Bangor, Erris.—In reply to your favour of the 21st instant, in respect to the efficiency of the turnip crop of last year, I beg to say, from personal observation, that it was the sole support of upwards of 800 families (4,000 people) in the districts of Bangor, Ballycroy, Corrick, Gelenany Whoos, and Ballinaboy, for two months. After the late Relief Act expired, only for them, hundreds of families must have died from starvation. I look upon the turnip seed distribution as one of the greatest boons bestowed upon the people since this famine commenced in our land.

Mayo.
28, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 2,060

Lieutenant *William Dawson*, R.N., *Belmullet.*—I feel great pleasure in adding my testimony to the satisfactory reports you have already received of the advantages derived to the poor from the distribution of the turnip seed. I feel convinced that but for the crop of turnips thence produced, very many would have fallen a sacrifice to the prevailing famine.

Mayo.
29, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 160

John Faussett, Esq., J. P., *Ballycastle.*—The distribution of the turnip seed was an invaluable benefit; many of the families of the poor would have otherwise been starved during the winter were it not for the produce.

Mayo.
25, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 190

Mayo. Lbs.
26, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 1,980

Lieutenant *Maurice Hewson*, R.N., J.P., *Claremont*.—I cannot speak in terms too laudatory of the great relief afforded to this district by the seeds kindly forwarded by you last season. They have been, for the last three months, the support of many families; I may, indeed, say the only support.

Mayo.
31, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 550

St. George Knox, Clerk, *Fahy*.—I beg to say, that very beneficial results have followed your kind and liberal grant of turnip seed. In fact, it has been the means of saving one-half of the population of this parish, since September last, when the Government relief ceased; the poor cottiers had little else than the turnips to fall back upon, and this food, mixed with Indian meal, forms a very cheap, nutritious and wholesome diet.

Mayo.
28, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 623

James O'Donel, Pullatomas, Erris.—I have to assure you, that were it not for the quantity of turnip seed sown last year in the Barony of Erris, the greater portion of its people would have perished.

Mayo.
25, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 1,952

Robert Rowland Savage, Achil.—I take leave to say that the turnip and other seeds sent last season, though something too late, were the means of saving the lives of many thousands of the poor, who were obliged to make them their chief food for months.

Mayo.
1, 2 (Feb.) 1848.
To Party - - none

Sir *Richard A. O'Donnell*, Bart., *Newport*.—I can, in truth, assert, if it had not been for the distribution of turnip seeds last season in this district, the consequences would have been frightful. Although the land was ill prepared to receive the seed, and the sowing made in a very careless way and at a late season, the crop proved excellent, and the poor have, I may say, been almost entirely dependent upon it for their food up to a very recent period.

Mayo.
29, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 5,700

Richard M. Lynch, Government Inspector.—I am duly favoured with your printed letter, of the 21st instant, in reference to the propriety of supplying the poor people of this district with a supply of good turnip seed in the ensuing season. Nothing can be more desirable. I have had good opportunity of witnessing the beneficial results of what was done last season by your benevolent Society, and I have no hesitation in stating, that you added, at least, two months' supply to the ordinary food of the district, and the people are now quite convinced of the great benefits to be derived from the cultivation of the turnip.

Mayo.
28, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 610

Thomas Jones, Esq., J.P., *Castletown*.—I have practical knowledge that the turnip seeds, granted by you last year, have produced the very best effects, and that, up to this moment, the turnip crop has tended, to a great extent, to keep the great mass of the population from starving. Last year, until it was almost too late, the peasantry thought of nothing but quitting their holdings and flying to America from their miseries, without at all considering the consequences; they were panic-stricken; this year it is quite the reverse, the poor people are anxiously sticking to their holdings, and I think on the exertions of this year will chiefly depend our future preservation. Large quantities of turnip seed will be required for the district, comprising the Ballina Union, the poorest in Ireland, and the soil is suited to all descriptions of turnips, and the early kinds are the best, Swedes, Aberdeens, yellow globe Aberdeen, and white topped.

Roscommon.
23, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To County - - 4,094
To Party - - 1,920

J. B. Beeche, Roscommon.—I have this morning received your favour of the 21st instant, and can, most truly add my testimony to the many advantages derived by our poor in these seven parishes, from the supply of seed for green crops you sent me last June for gratuitous distribution, and the number of acres supposed to be covered by that supply was about 350, must show at once what a quantity of provisions it placed at the disposal of a class of persons who would otherwise have been obliged to leave their land uncropped. I have every reason to believe that many hundreds have lived on these crops since harvest, that very many continue to do so at the present time, that several are selling part and buying meal with the receipts for their families. Our markets continue daily to be supplied nearly as well with turnips as formerly with potatoes, and my conviction is, that wretched and starving as a very large portion of our population is at present, yet this number would be considerably increased were it not for these green crops. I have added other parishes to last year's list, which are equally dependent upon us. Carrot and parsnip seeds are very valuable to the poor, and should you be able to procure any for us, they would be very acceptable. A supply of flax seed would much improve their condition; the land is well adapted for it, and very few are able to purchase. I add a list of the turnip seed that may be required, and in this opinion I am joined by a very upright gentleman who has just called upon me, and to whom I have showed your letter.

Roscommon.
31, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 608

George Griffith, Clerk, *Roscommon*.—I think a grant of turnip seed would be very beneficial to the country; the seed you sent me last year has been productive of great benefit to the poor. Some have told me that their crops of turnips have supported them for three months, which has enabled them to retrieve their circumstances a little.

Roscommon.
25, 1 (Jan.) 1848.
To Party - - 706

Denis H. Kelly, Esq., J.P. & D.L., *Castle Kelly*.—In reply to your circular, I beg to state, that your grant of seed to this district last year has been the means under Providence of saving thousands from famine. It, however, came so late that the people were not well prepared for it, but they have derived such advantage from it that I am sure a timely distribution

distribution would cause a very large breadth to be sown. In this district, turnip is the principal seed adapted to general use; other seeds are expensive and uncertain in produce. The best kinds, red and white Norfolk, Dale's hybrid and yellow Aberdeen; all these are hardy and prolific bearers, and not so liable to miss as the Swede and finer turnips. I would also recommend about five casks of flax seed being sent; it might encourage the people; but what we want for that is a market; if we had a ready sale, flax would become as abundant a crop as in old times. We have a few months of great difficulty still to contend with, but with God's blessing I trust his rod is being removed from us.

John Fenton, Esq., J. P., *Dromore-House*.—On the part of 225 families in the parish of Kilmackshelagh, to whom assistance was afforded by the distribution of turnip seed and other seeds forwarded me last season for that purpose by the Society of Friends, and the assistance given them by Sir R. Routh, I can, with confidence, declare the grateful impression of feeling evinced by all of them for the benefit received; for late as it was given out, and ignorant as they were of the mode of culture, the produce was vastly better than I had expected, and to a very recent moment afforded an assistant food to the barley and oatmeal which was thus nursed up. The people are now more sensible of the value of green crops, and those who may expect such assistance will prepare in order to secure a good return. I regret to say I do not see the usual quantity of manure saved, but the hope of receiving seed may give a beneficial stimulus. I am satisfied a grant of seed to this district will be attended with much good.

Sligo.	Lbs.
26, 1 (Jan.) 1848.	
To County - -	320
To Party - -	320

John Doolan, Carrigaherrig.—Respecting the turnip seed you enabled me to distribute in this neighbourhood last season, I am happy to say that it has afforded us the greatest relief; the produce from it since November last has been the chief food of the poor people around me up to the present; but for it, I really think hundreds in this neighbourhood must have died from starvation.

Tipperary.	
8, 2 (Feb.) 1848.	
To County - -	720
To Party - -	380

W. James Barcroft, Redford.—In reply to your circular respecting seeds, I may state, that I expect considerable advantages would arise from a timely distribution of the kinds suitable for this district. I send a list annexed.

Tyrone.	
29, 1 (Jan.) 1848.	
To County - -	380
To Party - -	120

Edward Bewley, M. D., *Moate*.—The seeds forwarded to me by you last year, were received by the small farmers and cottiers most thankfully, and have been of very great advantage to many, not only in procuring a supply of food for their families and pigs, but also by the introduction of an improved system of farming.

Westmeath.	
28, 1 (Jan.) 1848.	
To County - -	200
To Party - -	120

Thomas Clibborn, Hall, Moate.—I have the pleasure to state, that relief has been afforded by the grant of turnip seed to the small holders of land far beyond what I could at all have supposed, although I was, by many, considered too sanguine in my expectations as to the results.

Westmeath.	
27, 1 (Jan.) 1848.	
To Party - -	80

Joseph Houghton, Ferns.—I may inform the Committee, that the turnip seed distributed by me last year, proved very useful to the poor farmers, and I have reason to believe that only for this supply several would not have been able to crop their land.

Wexford.	
3, 2 (Feb.) 1848.	
To County - -	120
To Party - -	120

EXTRACT of a LETTER from *Sidney Smith*, D. D., of *Brookboro*, County *Fermanagh*.

Brookboro, 16 April 1848.

I AM happy to say that I am not only receiving daily evidence of the value of last year's green crop seed distribution, but am engaged for a large portion of each day with my steward in giving out the seeds forwarded to me for like objects this season, to people flocking from all sides.

The people say that it was not only that the gratuitious seed distribution was a great boon, but that while country-bought seeds failed generally, and as they say "robbed the farmers," the seeds sent by your Society were everywhere sound and productive beyond all precedent.

Cover Ireland with turnip fields, and we need not fear the agitators.

Your respectful Friend,

Sidney Smith.

Messrs. Bewley & Pim,
43, Fleet-street, Dublin, 16 April 1848.

Central Relief Committee of the Society of Friends,
43, Fleet-street, Dublin, 21st of first Month 1848.

LAST season Sir Randolph J. Routh, Commissary-general, with his accustomed attention to every measure likely to alleviate the distress in this country, placed under the care of this Committee, for distribution, a considerable quantity of turnip seed, which we lost no time in forwarding to the several districts where most required.

Late as was the period of the season for sowing it, and ill-prepared as was the land for reception of the seed, we have received the most satisfactory reports from many quarters of the advantages derived to the poor from this distribution. We are nowdesirous of having

such a timely expression of the opinions of the parties to whom the local distribution was entrusted, as may enable this Committee, should the general judgment be decidedly in favour of a similar distribution this season, to place the importance of the beneficial results clearly before parties willing to make a like grant the coming season.

Thou wilt please state the particular kinds of turnip seed most suitable for your district, and mention the quantities of each that could be distributed usefully and without waste.

A reply as early as practicable will oblige,

Thine faithfully,

William Todhunter.

P.S.—We would further wish to know whether any other descriptions of green crop seed or flax seed are likely to be beneficial.

G.

PARTICULARS of the LOCAL DISTRIBUTION of the GREEN CROP SEEDS purchased by the CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, 1848.

COUNTIES.	TURNIP.			CARROT.			PARSNIP.			CABBAGE.		
	Lbs. Distributed.	Acres Sown.	Parties Supplied.	Lbs. Distributed.	Acres Sown.	Parties Supplied.	Lbs. Distributed.	Acres Sown.	Parties Supplied.	Lbs. Distributed.	Acres Sown.	Parties Supplied.
Armagh	256	72	696	51	12½	261	28	5½	160	21	5	150
Antrim	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carlow	62	15	40	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cavan	903	157	1,264	126	22¼	662	57	12	304	10	2	127
Clare	1,512	237¾	1,020	13	1⅛	30	10	1¼	40	141	35	485
Cork	18,678⅜	8,729	8,643	804	106¾	1,849	608	87	1,216	478	120	1,068
Donegal	8,390	1,875½	8,868	518½	78¼	1,530	273½	49	1,289	381¾	70¾	788
Down	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dublin	240	60	85	40	6⅓	80	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fermanagh	2,231½	461	2,554	212	54	800	84	21	310	73	73	292
Galway	18,860¾	4,285¼	17,295	841	117¾	2,405	869½	125	2,901	504¾	139½	3,794
Kerry	2,190	516	1,486	20	5	182	20	5	182	20⅜	5	51
Kildare	111	24½	61	- -	- -	- -	2	½	3	13	1½	5
Kilkenny	432	96¼	141	12½	2	12	—	—	—	—	—	—
King's	2,308	480⅝	1,660	24	6	100	48	14	200	20	5	160
Leitrim	5,247	1,143¾	6,406	197	34	731	204	45½	608	379	61¼	2,193
Limerick	1,446½	357	1,664	80	11	100	- -	- -	- -	145	36	580
Londonderry	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Longford	290	61	281	28	7	41	40	10½	81	7	1¼	36
Louth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mayo	31,062	7,446½	29,500	1,452½	349¼	5,123	1,027	252¼	3,782	1,017	219	4,763
Meath	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Monaghan	474	115	1,369	83	30½	524	112	14¼	613	6	2	60
Queen's	220	45	97	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Roscommon	5,950	1,180¼	6,167	789	79	1,477	586	79½	1,609	176	26½	1,882
Sligo	3,344	685	1,747	276	36	787	254	33⅓	633	212	53	570
Tipperary	2,173½	446	1,530	187	31¼	188	84	15⅞	78	79	20½	339
Tyrone	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Waterford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Westmeath	1,540	313	1,227	40½	9	198	54	13	192	49¾	7	297
Wexford	492	106	279	24	3½	64	32	6½	59	8	8	128
Wicklow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	108,413⅞	28,908¼	94,080	5,819	1,003	17,144	4,393	790½	14,260	3,741⅜	891¼	17,768

H.

ANALYSIS STATEMENT of the LOCAL DISTRIBUTION of the several GREEN CROP SEEDS, &c. given out by the CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY OF FRIENDS, 1848.

DESCRIPTIONS.	Lbs. Distributed.	Acres Sown.	Parties Supplied.
Seeds purchased by Central Relief Committee; viz.:			
Turnip	108,413⅞	28,908¼	94,080
Carrot	5,819	1,003	17,144
Parsnip	4,393	790½	14,260
Cabbage	3,741⅜	891¼	17,768
Onion	505¾	No returns.	No returns.
TOTAL	122,872 7/16	31,593	143,252

ANALYSIS

ANALYSIS STATEMENT of Local Distribution of Green Crop Seeds, &c.—*continued.*

DESCRIPTIONS.	Lbs. Distributed.	Acres Sown.	Parties Supplied.
Handed from Commissariat Depôts:			
Turnip	1,905½	505¾	1,639
Carrot	118	21	340
Parsnip	131	23½	425
Mangold Wurtzell	548	91	1,097
Onion	592	98	1,052
Beans	1,563¾	7	223
Barley	498	7½	24
Oats	5,568	99¼	42
TOTAL	10,924½	853	4,842
SUMMARY:			
Seeds purchased by Central Relief Committee	122,872 7/16	31,593	143,252
Handed over from Commissariat depôts	10,924½	853	4,842
GROSS LOCAL DISTRIBUTION	133,796 15/16	32,446	148,094

(Errors Excepted.)

25th of 5th Month (May) 1849,
43, Fleet-street, Dublin. *William Todhunter.*

I.

SELECTIONS from the REPORTS respecting the GREEN CROP SEEDS DISTRIBUTION of 1848, as received from the Local Distributors.

IT will be seen from the above Return, the seeds have been pretty widely circulated which were committed to my care for distribution, and have proved of unspeakable benefit to the small holders in this locality, and their produce is now affording almost the only means of support that many have to depend upon. The turnips, where carefully cultivated, have yielded fair crops, but the fly was very destructive in many cases; the other seeds have also done pretty well, particularly the cabbages, from the people being better acquainted with their culture than the parsnip or carrot. On account of the great desire to grow potatoes, I fear that sufficient attention was not paid to the cultivation of other green crops; and now that the potatoes have again completely failed, universal regret is expressed for their not having done so, and I have no doubt in time to come, seeing the necessity of substituting other green crops, more care will be taken in the proper management of them.

I remain, &c.
G. D. H. Kirkaldy,
Hearnsbrook, Portumna, County Galway.

A GREAT quantity of food was raised by this valuable supply of seed, and it has established the importance of sowing those kind of crops on small holdings. The last was a bad season for turnips, and in several cases the land had to be sown a second time.

Yours, &c.
G. F. O'Fflahertie,
Lemonfield, Oughterard, Galway.

THE turnip seed all succeeded, though the Swedes were rather late, and the crops, which in general were very good, materially contributed to support the poor of this neighbourhood, having been mixed with barley and oatmeal, until the present period, when, I am sorry to say, they are now nearly exhausted. The carrot and parsnip seed were even much too late; and I cannot say exactly how many men were supplied with the small quantity issued by me, nor the quantity of ground, as they were given as experiments on the smallest scale this season: (if they hold good) I shall try them early.

Walter H. Butler,
Cregg, Gort, County Galway.

THE seed was considered very good, and no failures, and, but for the great anxiety about sowing potatoes last year, much more parsnip would have been sown; what was sown having turned out so well, it will be a great inducement to sow them this season, and they are now considered the best substitute that can be sown.

Dudley Persse,
Roxburgh, County Galway.

I AM happy to say, that the seed you sent me has turned out, in every case, a good crop.

Robert D. Robinson,
Gort.

OWING to the wetness of the season and the ravages committed by the fly, the turnips failed very generally, but where they succeeded, the advantage derived was very great; in fact, they were almost the sole support of a good many for the last two months. In no case did I hear of a failure in consequence of bad seed.

James Blake,
Clare, Galway.

THE quantity of turnip seeds distributed by me, 800 lbs., was sufficient to sow 200 acres; but in many instances the same ground was sown three times; the plant (which came up particularly well) being each time cut off by the fly. In this neighbourhood, it was a particularly bad season for turnips; and I do not think that any poor man about here had more than at the rate of 10 tons to the acre.

A. F. Nugent,
Tynagh, County Galway.

I CANNOT be certain as to the exact number of acres sown, as the seed has been divided among so many; the crop has been good, and is now the almost sole support of those to whom the seeds were given; the turnips seem very good for eating.

James Macredy, Clerk,
Spiddal, County Galway.

ALL the seeds have grown well; in most cases, owing to the fly, seeds were put down three times. The quantity of the crop, an average one. In consequence of the success of the potato crop in 1847, there were less turnips this year. In 1847, we had planted 125 acres; in 1848, about 80 acres is the nearest approach made by our agriculturist to the exact quantity; we refer here altogether to the tenant class. The soil has hitherto been ill-prepared; parsnips never before tried here, have grown well this year; second and even third crops of cabbages have been reared by the exertion of our Society, which the poor had deemed impossible. Peas, also unknown, have been tried with success this year. Deeper spade culture, more attention to removing weeds and the economizing of manures, is urged upon the poor by our agriculturist. The establishing of an improved vegetable system of gardening is our object.

By order. *R. Bodkin,*
Cummer, Tuam, Galway.

A GREATER quantity of the turnip seed was used to each acre of land in consequence of a portion of the seed being destroyed by the turnip-fly.

Francis La Touche,
Carrick-on-Shannon, Leitrim.

WERE it not for the very bountiful supplies afforded, the country would have been, for at least three months, in a far worse state, and although the crop has been deficient, it is owing to the ravages of the fly. Nothing could be better than the seed, which all came up with a fine beaird, till cut off by the fly.

Joseph Lambert, J.P.,
Claremorris, Mayo.

The Swedish turnip seed generally failed or was destroyed by the fly, and the parties who got it, requested other seed to re-sow them, and they got it as far as possible; the late turnips all grew and have produced a very good crop,—wonderful indeed, considering the neglect of thinning and weeding, thought the people had before them the good tillage of the Society of Friends in every locality of this district; a good deal of the crop yet remains, affording food to the people and their cattle.

Col. A. K. Gore,
Ballina, Mayo.

This seed came at a seasonable time, as it supplied the poor with seed to replace the early seeds destroyed by the fly. The produce of this seed constituted, up to this period, the principal food for them, and was, consequently, of the greatest benefit to them.

James MacHale, P.P.,
Castlebar, Mayo.

In most instances the first crop of turnips failed from the dry weather, and ravages made by the fly, but the after-crops were very good, and were the means of preserving many lives up to the present.

Samuel Bourns,
Rossport House, Mayo.

I may mention that the seeds were a great blessing to the poor of this locality; and there were very satisfactory accounts of the goodness of the seed, as also the crops themselves.

James Anderson,
The Glebe, Ballinrobe, Mayo.

Your seeds all grew well, and saved the lives of many, beside prolonging the lives of many more, now at rest. The poor of this district are deeply indebted to you.

James Hilles,
Maryland, Newport, County Mayo.

The destitution that prevailed in the surrounding parishes when your Society sent us the subjoined grant of seeds for green crops, I presume has long since been fully established. Very many of the small farmers so despaired of the future, apprehending that they would not live to see another year, could with difficulty, in many cases, be got to sow any seed; influential persons induced those poor to do so, and they have long since, with much gratitude, acknowledged the benefit; others gladly availed themselves of your grant; and there can be little, if any, doubt but almost the whole of the foregoing 569 acres would have remained uncropped, had not the poor landholders been gratuitously supplied, as they have been, by your Society. The destruction of the turnip crop by the "fly" was this year more than double what it was ever known to be, so that in many cases seed had to be sown two, three, and, in some instances four times; and thus, though the seed was good, the crop was not as abundant as could be wished for, in part probably caused by the ignorance of the poor in preparing their land, and afterwards not giving the necessary attention thereto. Of the carrot and parsnip seed, there was nearly an average crop.

J. B. Beeche,
Roscommon.

The seed all came up very strong and healthy, but suffered greatly from the ravages of the fly. It committed great havoc all through my neighbourhood; some had to be sown twice and three times, but a very valuable crop has remained.

R. D. Bolton Massy,
Ballywire, Tipperary.

The seeds were, in every case, most gratefully received, and their distribution has been of very great service to the poor; as far as I can ascertain, all the seeds grew well, and, considering the imperfect manner in which they were generally cultivated, produced abundant crops.

Ed. Bewley, M.D.
Moate, Westmeath.

The distribution of the above seeds was confined to this parish exclusively; I personally inspected many of the crops, and sent my steward also to do so, and our opinion is, that they the crops, were good, with some exceptions; of course, we take into consideration the imperfect tillage of the small farmers generally, the lateness of the season at which many of them had their land ready for sowing, and the unfavourable nature of the season for turnips. The people are most grateful for the benevolent grant of the Society, without which their land, in most cases, would have been without any crop.

St. George Gray,
Carn Park, Moate, Westmeath.

J.

STATEMENT relative to the Coast Fisheries.

The numerous attempts made to improve our coast fisheries, which the very large funds subscribed for the support of the poor of this country during the late calamitous years, permitted to be entered upon, have very generally failed to produce any considerable amount of permanent benefit, notwithstanding the number of influential parties engaged in these undertakings, all along the coast, and though the aggregate sum thus placed in their hands for the purpose was very large.

Our committee lent assistance, more or less extensively, to various places along the coast of Donegal, Sligo, Mayo, Galway, Clare, Kerry, Cork, Waterford and Wexford; obtaining the most approved gear, nets, &c. from the south of England and elsewhere. The results have been, generally speaking, disappointing, and from various causes, besides the unusually severe weather experienced all along the whole coast the last two years. Still I trust that in many places permanent beneficial results have been obtained from the assistance afforded.

I considered the coast of Donegal too wild for establishing a regular fishery, and though numerous parties from thence making application for assistance, seemed by their statements fully convinced of success, yet the results have been altogether unsatisfactory. One or two places on the Donegal coast, amongst those I visited, were certainly reaping much benefit from the opportunity afforded of sending good descriptions of fish, especially lobsters and crabs, by the steamers from Sligo and Derry to Liverpool and Glasgow; but speaking of that coast, as a whole, the fisheries were in a most miserable and hopeless condition. Along the coast of Sligo we lent little assistance, and that little seems to have produced but a small amount of benefit to the parties assisted. Along the coast of Mayo we gave a considerable amount of assistance, which has been the means of procuring a large accession of food, and of supporting a considerable number of people. Some stations were managed by our own agents, on a regularly organized plan, but from the unusual severity of the weather and consequent curtailment of the number of fishing days, the loss of gear and nets, and damage to the craft, the wretched poverty-stricken state of the fishermen, their hopelessness and the degredation and supineness resulting from their employment on the relief works, success, so far as a profitable return is concerned, has been prevented, although our agents acted with some activity and energy. The like may, generally speaking, apply to the Galway coast, where we likewise gave a good deal of assistance. One or two places were fortunate, and a very profitable result obtained, for which, however, the herring was principally to be thanked. The fishermen of that great station, Galway Bay, were in a miserable state the last two years; the kelp trade, as well as the trade in sea-weed, as a manure, being at a stand, and the poverty of the country inland leaving no market for fish, while they had no curing establishment. Galway may well be called a great station, if the number of boats and men employed be the criterion; Galway alone having, when last counted, over 700 hookers and 1,100 lug-sailed boats, to which add the Clifden division of 200 hookers and 1,000 lug-sailed boats, and we have no less than 900 hookers and 2,100 lug-sailed boats, employing no less than 13,400 fishermen and boys, counting whose families, we have not less than 50,000 to 60,000 persons to be supported by these boats.

Notwithstanding the complete destitution of these people, I found it impossible to induce them to take any better method of fishing than they now make use of; and though starving, it was equally impossible to induce them to make any regular daily exertion to capture fish, even with these. Our London committee being greatly interested in these people's welfare, and more especially of the Claddagh portion of them, who never occupy ground, and are mere fishermen, sent over a party from Falmouth; with well-appointed nets of all kinds, dredges, &c., and having his trawler ready to follow him, but he found she would not be permitted to be employed, and she therefore remained at Falmouth, nor has he himself been permitted to use his gear, trammels or other nets, dredges, &c., his time being thus wasted for many months. Thus I found matters in Galway; and having, my next visit there, to forward some food from thence to our southern fishing stations, I ordered up our trawler, the "Erne," to meet me there; on my arrival, the "Erne" being already there, I called upon the Claddagh Admiral and requested permission to make certain experimental scrapes; this was accorded, but at certain limits, as to ground, placing us where it was judged I should find no fish. I next requested to be furnished with a pilot, one of their own people, who would see that I did not trangress the limits laid down. Under these circumstances, we commenced our examination of the entire Bay of Galway; but the Claddagh people finding

I was

I was successful beyond all expectation, did, in defiance of their Admiral's permission, and against his wishes (for I do believe he kept faith), commence a system of desperate intimidation, throwing stones at my crew in the streets, threatening my life and the lives of the captain and crew, and of all persons, high or low, who should either aid or communicate with us. Several times they came after us with 50 to 100 boats, to put their threats into execution.

As I considered it of importance to make the examination, I was not to be intimidated nor interrupted; and considering our chances of overcoming the opposition of these people very much depended on showing that I was not to be intimidated, it was my habit, on arrival in port, to walk amongst the fishermen, or go over to the Claddagh and reason with them. Still finding the matter becoming systematic and serious, and my crew becoming so uneasy as to prevent our working with the necessary steadiness and energy, and the fear of their being destroyed should we be set upon, induced me to curtail my trawling of the inner portion of the bay; said inner portion, where we did trawl, being, however, outside the limits agreed on with the Admiral, and much outside the limits fixed by the Commissioners of Fisheries. Our English friends have erected here an extensive curing establishment, with a back entrance upon the quay of the Galway Dock, at the opposite side of the river, from the Claddagh; the Falmouth fisherman, Arthur Chard, having the management, and I fancy it is right well conducted by him. Up to the present time, however, no large extent of business has been done. The observations already made as to Sligo will equally apply to Clare. As respects Kerry, though we have likewise done little there, this has arisen from entirely different causes:—First. Captain Bennett and his company having come over to Dingle and Valencia, we were scrupulous not to interfere in any way. When this undertaking became defunct, we entered into an arrangement with Maurice O'Connell, M. P., lending him 300 *l.*, to enable him to carry on a fishery in that quarter. From the weather and the supineness of the people, he has found it impracticable to carry on the undertaking, and it has dropped.

Dingle and Valencia have now become stations of the "Royal Irish Deep-Sea Fishing Company," and for its welfare I am most desirous, though not very hopeful.

Seeing the bay thus occupied, anxious as I was to examine its capabilities fully, I determined to forego the pleasure; therefore made one most successful scrape, housed my trawl, made a few tacks, took some soundings, ran in to Valencia, and next morning started for Bantry Bay to visit our stations at Castletown and at Lawrence's Cove. On these we have made our heaviest outlay, in boats, gear and nets of all kinds, and we have now ready to go down two fine 20-ton luggers, built here and fully equipped. At Castletown we have the Government curing station that was.

The original station at Castlehaven, started by our friend Charles Bushe, has been singularly unfortunate. We were for this last-mentioned place, not only induced to send down the "Erne" trawler, but a Cornish lugger, brought over by Captain Carter's gunner, which has proved totally unfit for the coast; and both, so far as the station and Charles Bushe's expectations and plans are concerned, without the slightest benefit, while the expense has been very heavy.

On the Waterford and Wexford coasts, the undertakings have been very satisfactory. I enclose a copy of the last printed Report from the Ring District, another will be out in a few days, displaying a very extended increase of beneficial results. I also enclose a couple of copies of the Rules and Regulations I originally drew up for the Castlehaven and Berehaven stations.

(signed) *William Todhunter.*

K.

FACTS from the FISHERIES, contained in FOUR QUARTERLY REPORTS from the RING DISTRICT, County *Waterford.*

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

DURING the season of national calamity, 1846–47, the Waterford Auxiliary Relief Committee of the Society of Friends were engaged in distributing to the most distressed parts of the district allotted to their care, by Friends' Central Committee in Dublin, a portion of the fund raised in this country for that purpose, and which was so largely increased by munificent donations from Great Britain and the United States.

Amongst numerous urgent applications for relief received by the Auxiliary Committee, was a pathetic appeal from the Vicar of Ring, on behalf of the suffering people of his parish, which is situated at the western side of the bay of Dungarvan, and extends from the Slievegrine mountain to the sea-shore.

Besides the small landholders and occupiers scattered about on the mountain, this parish contains the three villages of Helvick, Ballinagoul, and Ringagoonah, whose population amounts to between 2,000, and 3,000 persons, a hardy race of people, depending chiefly for their support on fishing; living almost exclusively as a class to themselves, and having so little intercourse with other parties, that although only a few miles distant from the town of Dungarvan, scarcely any of them can speak English.

A supply of meal was immediately forwarded for their use; but the Committee soon became sensible, that though, under the pressing exigency, gratuitous relief was indispensable to save the famishing population, unless assistance by means of industrial employment could

be rendered, little if any permanent benefit would be effected. Inquiry was therefore made whether some plan could not be adopted to induce the fishermen to pursue their accustomed useful occupation, which, besides affording profitable employment, would likewise accomplish the desirable object of bringing an additional supply of cheap and nutritious food into the country; and it was suggested, that perhaps loans, to be repaid by small weekly instalments, might be a judicious mode of assisting them. To this inquiry the philanthropic writer of the annexed Reports replied, that he would, himself, most willingly give his personal co-operation, and that very many would be eager to accept the loans; but he could not avoid entertaining a fear that there would not be the same degree of alacrity in repaying them, for the fishermen were so reduced by the overwhelming calamity with which they had been visited, that they had been compelled to part with their nets and other fishing gear to purchase food, and some of them, in the extremity of their distress, had even burned their oars for want of other fuel.

So many unsuccessful attempts have been made in years past to promote and encourage the Irish fisheries, that in making a fresh effort of this nature, the Committee considered it needful to commence upon a very moderate scale, and in forming regulations for conducting it, to be principally guided by those fundamental principles which so powerfully and universally influence human action.

With these views, although the crews of upwards of 100 fishing boats were anxious to obtain assistance, it was concluded to be the wiser and more prudent course to begin with only 15; it being at the same time intimated to the others, that if these proceeded satisfactorily, and paid up regularly, the number would be increased.

In selecting these cases, previous good conduct, sobriety and industry were to be the recommendations; and thus at the outset, character, and not mere destitution, was established and quickly understood to be the passport to favour.

The loans, varying from 10*s.* to 3*l.*, were to be expended solely for the repair of boats and providing fishing apparatus; and whilst provisions were high priced, a small weekly allowance of meal as sea store was given, gratis, to each boat's crew for a short period.

One month after the loan was made, repayment was to commence in weekly instalments of not less than 6*d.* in the pound. The sums thus received, it was announced, would be immediately re-lent to other parties, and the persons assisted were therefore encouraged to do their part in benefiting their neighbours, by paying in a greater sum than the stipulated amount, whenever the week's fishing proved successful; and the expectant applicants exercised a salutary vigilance that there should be no undue remissness in the payments.

In order still further to induce punctuality, and likewise to aid these miserable poor people, without compromising the feelings of independence and self-reliance, which the Committee were most anxious to cherish, it was also stipulated that if the instalments of 6*d.* in the pound were regulary paid up for 30 weeks, that is, 15*s.* in the pound, the remaining 5*s.*, or 25 per cent., would be remitted as a bonus; but any person getting four weeks into arrear would be disentitled to this allowance, and this arrangement has had a very beneficial effect.

But however excellent a plan may be in the abstract, experience abundantly shows that unless the individual who undertakes its management and supervision is qualified for the task, disappointment is oftentimes the result. The accompanying interesting Reports, and the valuable suggestions they contain, will fully testify how judiciously and successfully the views of the Committee have been carried out.

The sum originally sent was 20*l.*; this was subsequently increased to 50*l.*, which, with 7*l.* from the London Ladies' Association, for promoting employment, 6*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.* the produce of clothing sold, and 20 barrels of meal, constituted the whole amount advanced. With this and the repayments, 178 loans have been made, and the parties thus assisted have, it appears, besides (with little exception) regularly paying up their instalments, been able to maintain themselves and those dependent upon them; at a time, too, when in the surrounding parishes the Poor Law Guardians were overwhelmed with wretched objects imploring relief.

In 10th Month, 1847, a deputation from the Auxiliary Committee visited the district, and were much gratified at beholding the happy countenances, the independent bearing and consciousness of self-respect apparent among the fishermen.

These poor people, whilst pouring forth their grateful acknowledgments for the assistance given them, feelingly adverted to the severe injury they sustain by the legal restrictions on the use of the trammel net (described in the first Report), to which within the last few years they have been subjected. This kind of net is cheap in its construction, inexpensive in working it, and takes a large quantity of fish. Different applications have been made to the Irish Fishery Board for the removal of these prejudicial restrictions, but hitherto without effect, not even the slightest relaxation having been yet granted. In Great Britain it appears there are no such restrictions; on the contrary, this mode of fishing is perfectly free and unrestrained, and it certainly does seem extraordinary why a different course should be pursued as regards Ireland.

Another great impediment to their success has been the want of a suitable pier to shelter their frail craft from the winter storms. At Ballinagoul they pointed to a rude sort of breakwater, formed of loose stones, that they had laboriously piled together, and which is their only protection, but totally inadequate for the purpose.

This subject was therefore brought under the notice of the Commissioners of Public Works, and that Board immediately sent down their engineer to examine and report upon it; and have since agreed to expend the sum of 1,800*l.* in erecting a commodious pier there for

for the safety and accommodation of the fishing boats. The preparations for commencing this useful work are now in a state of much forwardness, and it is hoped a considerable portion of it will be completed during the present year.

The deputation, being desirous to confer some token of approbation, had taken with them some striped woollen shirts, such as are usually worn by seamen, commonly called "Guernsey frocks;" and these, it was intimated, were to be distributed amongst those who had regularly paid up their instalments. In a letter received shortly afterwards by a member of the deputation, it is stated, "The news that such a parcel had arrived circulated through our different fishing hamlets as if conveyed by electric telegraph; and the announcement that they were to be given as premiums to those who were most punctual in their payments, has effected more than a score of processes, emanating from a court of law."

In a subsequent letter it is further stated: "Our prizemen are conspicuous in the busy throng; and they say these shirts afford them more warmth and comfort than all the rest of their tattered habiliments put together." Thus, by the outlay of about 5*l.* a fresh impulse was given to their operations; the punctual become possessors of a comfortable garment, and could exhibit it as an honourable testimonial of the fidelity with which they had discharged their engagements.

Fishing when diligently followed is a laborious occupation, and it is of considerable importance that persons engaged in it should have a good supply of warm clothing, so that when returning wet and weary, after their severe toil, there should always be a change of dry garments ready for them. The Committee early sought to impress this new idea upon them, and with a view of promoting and encouraging it, a supply of substantial warm clothing was sent thither for sale at a reduced price.

It was also announced that an inspection of their habitations, as well as their clothing, would take place during the Spring, and premiums be awarded to the most deserving. This announcement caused both brush and broom to be quickly brought into active operation, and so complete a revolution ensued, that when the rewards were distributed, "the whitened walls and neatly sanded floors, gave an appearance of cleanliness and comfort to those humble dwellings to which the inmates were previously strangers."

In submitting these preliminary observations, with the annexed Reports, to the notice of the public, the Auxiliary Committee entertain the hope that efforts of a similar nature may be made on other parts of the coast. The main points to be kept in view, being simply to begin on a moderate scale, to select the persons to be assisted from among the most deserving, rather than the most destitute; and to frame the regulations so as to make it the interest of all parties to adhere to and maintain them.

The Committee further indulge the expectation that a perusal of these pages may arrest the attention of some influential Members of the Legislature, and promote the speedy removal of the prejudicial and impolitic restrictions which debar the poor Irish fisherman from the free use and consequent advantages of the valuable kinds of net which are in profitable and unrestrained operation in England and elsewhere.

Much has been said about encouraging the Irish fisheries, but every reflecting mind must at once perceive that until there is freedom of action for catching the fish, as well as security for the vessels engaged in it, by the construction of piers in suitable places, it is almost hopeless to expect any great extension or permanent improvement in this valuable branch of national industry.

Waterford, 8th Month, 21st, 1848.

To the Members of the Friends' Auxiliary Relief Association in *Waterford*.

Gentlemen,

In laying before your Committee the following statement, relative to the loans made to the Ring fishermen, from funds which your Society placed at my disposal, I trust you will not consider that I am trespassing too much upon your time, while I give you a brief description of the condition of these poor fishermen, prior to the receipt of the liberal donations which from time to time we have received from your society. But presuming on the kind interest which you continue to take in the welfare of this hitherto neglected class of persons, I am emboldened to dwell upon the subject, as I conceive that nothing can be more gratifying to the humane and charitable, than to be assured that their bounty has not been misapplied, and that it has enabled us to sow those seeds from which there is every prospect of a plentiful harvest.

When your Honorary Secretary first applied to me for information respecting the fishermen of this district, I went in person to inspect their boats and fishing appointments; and found that, in almost every instance, these latter had been pawned or sold for the purchase of food during the winter months; and that the oars and lining of the boats had been used as fuel. So that from a fleet consisting of about 100 fishing boats, not more than six or eight could be procured on this whole line of coast which might be considered seaworthy. I observed the fishermen wandering along the cliffs in idleness, with apathy or despair depicted on every countenance. They had neither nets, nor lines, nor hooks; all having been long since disposed of for food. Famine was raging at its height, while fever and dysentery—whose virulence was much increased by the impurities so prevalent in fishing hamlets—were hurrying many to a premature grave! Our local subscriptions had been long since expended in the purchase of food: we had no relief to expect from sources which were already drained to the very dregs.

It was at this time, that your benevolent Society came to our assistance, and incalculable beyond measure have been the results. Our ship carpenters were immediately set to work. The fishermen might be observed making every preparation for the approaching season, while their wives and daughters were busily engaged in spinning and making nets. And though the year has not been as remunerative to the fishermen in this immediate locality as we anticipated, you will be much pleased to learn that the crews of 49 boats, to whom your bounty extended, have been placed in a position which enables them now to support their families by their own industry and exertions.

The advance in money to each boat, varies from 10*s.* to 3*l.* according to the wants of the crew; and it is expected that these sums will be repaid by weekly instalments; and in consideration of the very great distress which prevailed at the time, and with a view to encourage punctuality of payment among the men, it was stipulated, as you directed—that one-fourth of the amount advanced should be remitted, provided the other three-fourths were paid up within a reasonable time. In addition to this bonus, each boat's crew received two stone of Indian meal per week to render them independent of the out-door relief, for which they should have to apply each day in person, about noon, when they ought to be at sea.

It may be interesting to your Committee to learn a few particular instances of the happy effects resulting from your bounty, which have come to my knowledge.

One boat's crew who had been compelled by extreme destitution to sell during the winter, for less than half its value, a large sweep net, which was their only means of support, obtained a loan of 3*l.* which enabled them to purchase another, and with this at the very first draught, they obtained about 4,000 mackerel, worth nearly 10*l.*

Another party, to whom a similar advance had been made, took in one evening 50*l.* worth of mackerel and scads.

A very poor man who obtained a loan of 15*s.* from the fund, caught a turbot for which he received the full amount of the sum advanced.

A fourth party came to inform me that his whole substance, consisting of a little stack of corn and some household furniture, had been distrained by his landlord for rent; and that consequently if not speedily assisted, he was inevitably ruined. He got as much money as enabled him to procure at a pawn-office some herring nets, and in two days he came to inform me that he had taken 15*l.* worth of herrings; a sum almost sufficient to purchase the fee-simple of the small holdings on which he had been living. It is scarcely necessary to add, that the bailiffs were immediately withdrawn and the rent paid.

I could mention many similar cases, but sufficient, I trust, has been said to prove, if proof were wanting, what inestimable benefits your liberality has conferred upon the poor fishermen of this district.

I regret, however, to say that notwithstanding all that has been done, we have still some very considerable difficulties to struggle against. In the present Report I shall confine myself to two.

The first is, the restrictions against the use of the trammel-nets. This is a mode of fishing, which has been carried on with very great success for a considerable number of years in this locality, and is of all others, the most remunerative to the fisherman. The take of hake after the night in each boat often varying from 500 to 1,000 fish. And it is peculiarly adapted to the small boats used here, for the owners can set their nets on the fishing ground, and should the weather threaten to be unfavourable, they return to the shore, and subsequently avail themselves of the first favourable moment, when the wind abates, to repair to their nets, remove the fish therefrom, and thus supply the markets, when the larger boats are weather-bound in harbour. But by a recent enactment of the Legislature, these trammel-nets cannot be set until after sun-set, and must be taken up the following morning before sun-rise. Now, when we take into account the loss of time in setting these nets and the shortness of the night in summer, you will perceive that the restriction to which I have referred, almost amounts to a total prohibition; while in winter, the darkness sets in so soon after the sun sinks below the horizon, that the difficulty of returning to the shore in open boats, particularly in rough weather, almost deters the fisherman altogether from the use of the trammel-net. If then the Board of Fisheries could be induced to sanction such a relaxation of the laws, as would allow more latitude to the class of fishermen whom I have mentioned, or would mark out a particular part of the coast at each station, between certain limits, for the use of such nets, thus doing away with monopoly, and admitting free trade in fishing as in grain, I have no doubt but they would confer a great benefit not only on the fishermen, but on the community at large.

But we have another, and a far more serious difficulty to contend with—a difficulty which during the winter months, when fishing is most profitable, paralyzes every effort at exertion, and one which affects this part of the coast more than any other. I mean the want of a safety harbour for our boats. It is really surprising to find so many boats (12 hookers and about 90 yawls) in a district unprovided with a harbour, and all these the property of very poor persons. Now what is the consequence? In winter, all the hookers must be drawn ashore with very great labour, and placed above high water mark; in like manner the smaller boats, except those only which use the spilliards, and among these it frequently happens that a storm commits fearful havoc. Not many days since, six boats were forced from their moorings and carried out to sea, laden as they were with herrings, the crews being forced to abandon them to their fate. There is in the bay an excellent site for a pier, which could be constructed at a moderate expense, sufficiently large to accommodate all the boats on this station; were such accommodation provided, I have no doubt but that in a

few

few years the number of our fishing boats would be doubled. And as preparations are being made for the erection of a fish-curing establishment at Helvick, under the management of a Scotch capitalist, such a pier would afford not only to us, but to the fishermen of Dungarvan and Abbeyside, the greatest facility of landing and disposing of their fish to great advantage, without the necessity of their returning by a tedious and intricate navigation to the Quay of Dungarvan, which in bad weather is attended with much danger, and is the cause of very considerable delay and loss of time.

In conclusion, I beg with sincere pleasure to tender to your Society, on the part of those relieved by your bounty, the overflowings of the deepest gratitude; and to express the unfeigned thanks of the many hundred persons whom you have been the means under Providence of rescuing from an untimely death.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient and obliged Servant,

Seaview, Dungarvan, 7 October 1847. *James Alcock*, Vicar of Ring.

No.	NAME of the Principal Party in each Boat.	No. receiving Loan.	Name of Boat.	Amount of Loan.	Weekly Instalments paid in, to 4th Oct.
				£ s. d.	£. s. d.
1	Edmund Walsh	3	Mary Anne	3 – –	1 6 –
2	Michael Connel	3	Shamrock	– 15 –	– 11 3
3	Maurice Harty	4	Ant	– 15 –	– 11 3
4	John Morrissy	4	Bessie	1 15 –	1 6 3
5	Bat. Walsh	4	Thomas	1 – –	– 15 –
6	Pat Walsh	5	St. Nicholas	2 – –	– 17 9
7	Pat Sullivan	4	Mary	1 10 –	1 1 –
8	Daniel Burn	4	Ruddock	1 – –	– 15 –
9	Augustus Draper	3	Victory	1 10 –	1 1 –
10	Nicholas Terry	4	St. Martin	1 – –	– 15 –
11	Maurice Connel	4	The Unknown	1 – –	– 15 –
12	John Kean	2	Wave	1 – –	– 14 –
13	James Mahony	5	Nancy	2 – –	1 6 –
14	Michael Costin	2	Mary	– 10 –	– 7 6
15	John De Courcy	4	Patrick	1 – –	– 15 –
16	John Murray	4	St. Patrick	1 10 –	– 12 6
17	William Barry	4	Screw	1 15 –	– 7 –
18	William Murray	2	Whip	1 – –	– 9 –
19	Michael Carey	4	Mary Carey	1 15 –	– 18 6
20	Pat Kenna	1	Grandison	– 10 –	– 7 6
21	James Walsh	3	Mary	– 15 –	– 11 3
22	James Graves	4	Helvick	2 7 6	1 – –
23	John Dromy	4	Nancy	1 10 –	– 14 3
24	Thomas Kelly	5	Anne	2 – –	– 14 6
25	Pat Murray	4	Elizabeth	2 – –	– 16 –
26	Mathew Keane	4	Peggy	2 – –	1 – –
27	Michael Murray	4	Repeal	2 – –	– 16 –
28	Nicholas Power	2	Mary	1 10 –	1 2 6
29	John Whelan	4	St. Patrick	2 – –	– 14 9
30	James Whelan	4	Peggy	2 – –	– 19 6
31	Thomas Whelan	5	Johanna	2 – –	– 17 6
32	Pat Murray	4	Ellen	2 10 –	– 16 6
33	John Hayes	3	The Lady	1 10 –	– 8 –
34	William Carey	2	Mary	1 5 –	– 10 –
35	John Hartry	1	„	– 11 3	– 8 4
36	John Morrissy	4	The Best Boat	2 – –	1 10 –
37	Maurice Brien	1	„	– 10 –	– 7 6
38	Michael Walsh	1	„	– 10 –	– 5 –
39	Nicholas Power	3	Mary	1 – –	– 5 6
40	James Carey	2	Schooner	1 – –	– 6 –
41	Philip Barnett	2	„	– 15 –	– 5 –
42	Pat Glassee	3	Gannet	1 – –	– 10 –
43	Pat Tobin	4	Nicholas	2 – –	– 8 –
44	James Carthy	1	„	– 10 –	– 3 –
45	Thomas Power	2	Thomas Power	1 – –	– 3 –
46	Daniel Mahony	2	Spankaway	– 15 –	– 8 –
47	Michael Hartry	2	„	– 15 –	– 1 6
48	John Maher	3	Ringdove	1 – –	– 1 –
49	James Mahony	3	Donald	1 – –	—
		156	£.	65 18 9	31 14 1

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Amount of 1st grant - -	20	–	–	Amount of Loans as above -	65	18	9
Ditto - 2d ditto - -	10	–	–				
Weekly payments - -	31	14	1	Paid for 20 cwt. Indian meal for sea store - - -	9	15	–
From Ladies' Association in London, per Mrs. Fowler -	7	–	–				
	£. 68	14	1				
In advance - -	6	19	8				
	£. 75	13	9		£. 75	13	9

By the foregoing account, I have received altogether in grants and weekly instalments, 68 *l.* 14 *s.* 1 *d.*; and I have given in loans, 65 *l.* 18 *s.* 9 *d.*; and expended on the purchase of meal, 9 *l.* 15 *s.*; which leaves a balance due to me of 6 *l.* 19 *s.* 8 *d.*, which sum I was induced to advance to the fishermen a short time since when the herrings entered the harbour, and many persons were unprovided with nets.

7 October 1847.

THE SECOND QUARTERLY REPORT from the RING DISTRICT, addressed to the AUXILIARY RELIEF COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY of FRIENDS in *Waterford.*

Gentlemen,

I FEEL that I should be guilty of the greatest disrespect to the members of your Committee, and the cause of much serious injury to the fishermen of this immediate district, whose cause you have so warmly espoused, were I, for any personal inconvenience to myself, to withhold from you any information as to the working of the system, which you have so humanely proposed, for the relief of the famishing poor of this parish. From a thorough conviction, that nothing tends more to check and throw a damp upon the charitable exertions of those who are willing to contribute from their abundance to the wants of others, than the impression, that such funds have been lavishly expended or misapplied, I hope to be able in the following Report to show that such is not the case; on the contrary, that much practical good has been effected, that a fair experiment has been made under very unfavorable circumstances, to prove that even a small outlay judiciously managed, may be the means, under Providence, of placing many hundreds of our fellow-creatures—who are able and willing to labour—in a position which enables them to support themselves and families in comparative comfort and independence. From the sad experience which we have had during the last two years, I believe it is now freely admitted by all, that nothing tends more to demoralize the working classes of this country than gratuitous relief;—feed the people in idleness, and you completely paralyze every effort at exertion on their parts; such is unfortunately their character. Even prior to the famine, which has been desolating the land, the whole object of their ambition seemed to be to cultivate, during the spring of the year, as much of the plainest and coarsest food, as under favourable circumstances would be sufficient for their families; after which there was a total relaxation of all industry; no wish, at least no attempt, to better their condition, no preparation for a future day, no ambition, no energy. But, gentlemen, in the system of relief you have suggested, and on which I have been acting, the case is quite different; your bounty is extended to none but the sober, industrious and well conducted. The people are taught to be temperate and diligent, they receive pecuniary assistance to enable them to work for their support, and they are rewarded for punctuality in the repayment of the loans they have received, all the social relations of life are respected, and thus the character of the people materially improved.

I believe I mentioned in my last quarterly Report, that at the time your very liberal donation was forwarded to me for the use of the fishermen, out of a fleet of 100 boats not more than 8 or 10 were considered sea-worthy; nor had the owners the means of repairing them; and what was the natural consequence of such a state of things? that in one fishing hamlet alone we had this time last year 100 families on our relief lists calling daily upon us for food, while in the same village now there are not more than seven families in distress. The same observations may be made with regard to the adjoining villages of Ring and Helvick. Nor let it be supposed that this remarkable difference was occasioned by the great quantity of fish taken during the summer months. On the contrary, the season has been altogether an unfavourable one; but still all are enabled through your instrumentality (without having received any other assistance whatever) to support themselves by their own industry and exertions. They have acquired a degree of independence, and they have shaken off the indolence and sloth for which during the time they were employed on the public works they were singularly remarkable.

I have stated that a fair experiment has been made under very unfavourable circumstances, proving how much practical benefit might be effected among this class of fishermen by small loans, for when we consider the state of abject poverty under which our poor had been labouring in the month of June last, when your bounty was extended to them, without fishing appointments of any kind which were available, without clothing, deeply in arrear with

with their landlords, and provisions at famine prices, it is not to be wondered at that even the most sanguine should have anticipated a decided failure in our operations. But such I am truly happy to inform you is not the case. The experiment is working well, and the consequence is, that on every side may be seen comparative plenty and contentment, where before was famine and despair. I have the more pleasure in mentioning this fact, now that the Legislature has taken a lively interest in the subject of the improvement of fisheries on the coast of Ireland, in the humble yet confident hope, that a system, somewhat similar to that which you have introduced on this coast, and which has been attended with such signal success, may be more generally adopted among this class of poor but industrious men, who are ready to encounter every difficulty, and brave every danger in the pursuit of a livelihood, if only the means were supplied to them with even a moderate chance of success.

The necessity of such loans to the humbler class of fishermen along the coast, will appear yet more evident when we bear in mind that every change of season brings with it a different mode of fishing. Thus, in autumn all are busily engaged with hand-lines and trammel-nets in pursuit of hake, after which it is announced that the herrings are approaching the shore; what is the practice with the poor fisherman? he is forced to sell or pawn his trammel-nets for one-fourth of their value, to enable him to procure nets of a smaller mesh for taking herrings; and these he must dispose of at a like sacrifice to purchase spilliards; and these again for lobster-pots, &c., so that the loss sustained on every exchange is almost incalculable. Another advantage accruing from such loans is, that the fishermen by purchasing the raw material, and employing the junior members of his family at home, not only inculcates upon their youthful minds habits of industry, but obtains in this manner a much superior article, and at a considerable less cost than if he went to the shop to buy—and he is always prepared for the approach of fish.

I come now to explain how the funds which you have placed at my disposal have been applied. In my last Report I mentioned that 65*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* had been divided among the crews of 49 boats; since which time your further donation of 20*l.* has been received, and this sum, together with the amount of weekly instalments paid in, has enabled me to issue 40*l.* more, so that I now find, by reference to my book, a total of 105*l.* 18*s.* 9*d.* has been distributed among 77 parties or crews; of these 33 have paid up the full amount of the loan, subject to the reduction of 25 per cent., and the others, with very few exceptions, are going on steadily in their payments. Thus, we have 77 parties, amounting to about 230 heads of families, receiving nearly 10*s.* each, for the purchase of hemp or to repair their boats, together with a very liberal allowance of meal (while provisions were dear), warm clothing for the winter, and hooks. And here, while I state the immense benefit which this sum has conferred on nearly 1,000 souls, let me ask how far would it have reached in feeding so many families in idleness? Not 14 days at the utmost.

It will afford you much pleasure also to learn that the fishermen, notwithstanding all the hardships to which they are exposed in cold and wet weather, are becoming every day more remarkable for temperance and sobriety. The rewards of merit which you directed me to give them have had a most salutary effect; the Guernsey shirts proved a most valuable acquisition to them; they were given to those most distinguished for good conduct and prompt payment; and I propose, with your approval, to dispose of the clothes you are now sending in a similar manner, beginning with the parties immediately succeeding those with whom the former grant ceased.

When the local advantages which we possess are remembered, it will be readily admitted that no district on the coast is more justly entitled to the special consideration of the Legislature; the whole population are fishermen, while we have no resident proprietors, no capitalist to embark in so profitable a speculation. Nature has done much for us; and there is probably no part of the coast of Ireland better adapted for a fishing station or possessing more natural advantages. We have the Nymph Bank and the Mead, universally admitted to be most favourite resorts for fish, within a convenient distance. We have in the Bay of Dungarvan several sites, admirably calculated for placing salmon-nets, such as are used with great success on the coast of Scotland and elsewhere, but from the want of capital, no attempt has been made hitherto, though such an outlay would be most remunerative. We have an excellent market for all the fish that may be taken, from which the counties of Waterford and Tipperary are supplied; and there is at Helvick a fish-curing establishment, under the management of a Scotch company, where a ready sale can be effected, should the market at any time be overstocked. But our great difficulty still remains—I mean the want of a Safety Harbour for our boats; had we such a place of security, the larger craft need not remain idle all the winter, as is now the case, drawn up on shore; not to mention the loss that is sustained every season, when the tide, during a storm rising above its usual limits, sweeps the shore and carries away many of the boats which happen to have been left within its reach. Often have I stood watching those hardy fishermen after a night of excessive labour and hardship, pushing up their boats against a steep bank, beyond the reach of the angry elements, while their backs were literally streaming with blood from the exertions they were forced to use. They are really a patient and hardworking set of fellows, and if only some encouragement and assistance were given them, they could be easily taught to have a spirit of self-dependence, and to rely upon their own energies for support.

I have already, in my former Report, dwelt upon the restrictions regarding the use of trammel-nets; I shall, therefore, now confine myself to one question. Is it not a strange anomaly in our Irish code of laws, that in a year of famine there should be restrictions against the free use of such nets, founded, perhaps, on a wild fancy of the imagination, while they are

permitted in England and Scotland? Are we protecting the fish for generations yet unborn, at the expense of our famishing poor? Our first object should be to increase, by every fair and legitimate means, the supply of food in our markets; and until it can be proved beyond the possibility of a doubt that such object has not been effected, I cannot conceive the expediency of such restrictions.

The next point to which I would beg to direct your particular attention, is a suggestion which I received from a gentleman of much practical experience, viz.:—That a fishing chart, or rather a chart of the fishing banks, would contribute materially to the promotion of the fisheries, and the plan he proposes is most simple and feasible, for the Government is now making a nautical survey of the coast, and with a small additional expense the Admiralty Surveyors could easily examine the several fishing banks, and by having experienced fishermen associated with them, could not only set down the nature of those banks, their soundings, currents, &c. &c., but also, by "trying the ground," ascertain the kinds and quantities of fish resorting to them. The resources and treasures of the deep being thus tested, an additional stimulus for perseverence and exertion is thereby given—the fisherman no longer works in the dark as heretofore, but knows in what direction to shape his course in search of fish, should he not succeed in finding them in their accustomed haunts.

Before concluding this Report, I would offer one suggestion more respecting this class of persons, which, if acted upon, would, I trust, be attended with very beneficial results. I perceive, by the public prints, that the Government is deputing practical instructors to proceed through the different counties, and deliver lectures on agricultural subjects, intending thereby to improve the system of farming heretofore pursued in Ireland. Now, if something similar were done for the fishermen, would it not be the means of effecting much practical good? The difficulties attending such a scheme are few; the lecturer would not have to travel from farm to farm, nor from parish to parish, in search of an audience; he would easily find one assembled at every fishing station. He could adopt, as he advanced round the coast, what appeared to him to be the most successful methods of taking the different kinds of fish, and impart such knowledge to those at other stations not so well informed; he could explain the most approved manner of fishing, as practised in Holland, England, Scotland, &c., and by exhibiting specimens of the most improved fishing gear, contribute materially to benefit a class of persons who, I regret to say, have in many places much to learn.

Everything being thus put in proper train, the people encouraged in habits of sobriety and industry, properly instructed in the most improved methods of taking fish, and being provided with proper charts to direct them in their proceedings, and having the advantage of Safety Harbours constructed in favourable situations, and at convenient distances along the coast, matters would be so much better managed than at present, that I have no doubt but that these considerations would induce many capitalists to come forward, after the present panic in the money-market subsides, and embark in an undertaking which, while it would afford employment to a large number of persons, would be amply remunerative to themselves. By this means a superior description of fishing-craft, well furnished with all the necessary apparatus, would be employed at each station; and, as a necessary consequence, an abundant and constant supply of a cheap and wholesome food would be seen in our markets; and our poor would not be found famishing in idleness around the coast, as is now the case, with an abundant harvest almost within their grasp, if only they were provided with the means of reaping it.

In conclusion, I beg to return you, on behalf of those 230 families which you have been instrumental in rescuing from an untimely grave, a thousand thanks, and to assure you of their unfeigned gratitude for all your favours conferred;

And am, Gentlemen,
Your obliged and faithful Servant,

James Alcock, Vicar of Ring.

Seaview, 4th January 1848.

	£.	s.	d.		£.	s.	d.
Amount of Donations received	57	–	–	Amount of Loans to Fishermen to this date - -	105	18	9
*Amount of Weekly Instalments paid in - - -	58	13	9	Meal for sea store - -	9	15	–
£.	115	13	9	£.	115	13	9

THE THIRD QUARTERLY REPORT from the RING DISTRICT, addressed to the AUXILIARY RELIEF COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY of FRIENDS in *Waterford*.

Gentlemen,

THREE months have now elapsed since I last had the pleasure of laying before your Committee a Report of the proceedings of the Ring fishermen, and you are now probably prepared to learn that the scanty supply of food which they derived from the late harvest, being

* It may be asked, how it happens that, if an allowance of 25 *l.* per cent. is given for regular payments, 58 *l.* 13 *s.* 9 *d.* have been paid in? This is accounted for by the fact of my giving to other parties the amounts of the weekly payments.

being long since exhausted, and the weather, during the winter months, being too severe to admit of the small open boats, which are here used, from the want of proper accommodation for larger craft, putting to sea, the poor of this district are again reduced to the same state of wretched destitution as that in which they were plunged, at the time that your Committee first extended a helping hand to relieve them. You are expecting to hear that our loan fund, subject to a constant reduction of 25 per cent. at every issue, as stated in a former Report, being now frittered away, the poor fisherman, heretofore sustained by your bounty, has no alternative but to apply for admission to the Workhouse; or you are probably anticipating another appeal to your charitable sympathies on behalf of the poor of this parish, who, for a considerable time, were enabled, through the assistance you afforded them, to make a stand against poverty, and support themselves by honest industry. But no—such is not my intention; on the contrary it affords me the greatest satisfaction to be able to state that a most remarkable change for the better has taken place in the condition of our fishermen, within the last six months. We have had, thank God, no destitution up to the present time; all are beginning once more to look cheerful, robust and comfortable. They are provided with a sufficient supply of fishing gear for their immediate wants, and, therefore, constantly employed whenever the weather permits. I might almost add, that no weather prevents them from putting to sea in search of fish, so great is their anxiety and ambition to be distinguished for industry, hardihood and perseverance. It has been remarked that there were many more persons engaged in taking haddock, cod and ling, on this coast, during the late inclement season than in any former year. Often have I been terrified, while I witnessed from our lofty cliffs the struggles of the fishermen, as they endeavoured to make the shore against a strong westerly wind; often have I imagined that the looks of the wives and families of those contending with the angry element were directed in a reproachful manner against me, as the cause of their being exposed to such imminent danger (because I lose no opportunity of impressing on the minds of all the necessity of increased diligence and exertion, to enable them to overcome the difficulties they have to contend with), for it occasionally happens, that in those open boats, the men are forced in stress of weather to take refuge in sheltered creeks or coves, several miles distant from their homes, leaving their anxious families for many hours, sometimes days, in the deepest agony and suspense as to their fate, but we have every reason to be thankful, for up to the present time no accident has occurred. For the accuracy of the foregoing statement, relative to the hardihood of these men, I might confidently refer to the engineer, who was deputed by the Board of Works, to prepare a report and survey of the different sites on this coast, most calculated for a Safety Harbour. It was blowing a gale of wind, accompanied with severe showers of snow and sleet, on the day he visited Ballinagoul, and great was his surprise to see those brave fellows advancing towards the shore in their little yawls; nor was his astonishment less when he observed them casting anchor, about two furlongs, (for it was low water at the time) from the rude pier that they constructed, and wading through the water with the fish in baskets on their backs. When that gentleman asked them, were they not afraid to venture out in such weather? they replied, "No, sir, for, as you see, we have left all the old and infirm hands at home, and we are used to such rough work."

A very visible improvement is, I say, now observable among the fishermen. Their houses have been all newly thatched, and the whitened walls, and neatly sanded floors, give an appearance of cleanliness and comfort to those humble dwellings, to which the inmates were hitherto strangers.

I took occasion in a former Report to allude to the slovenly habits and absence of neatness so manifest in these fishing hamlets, and that in consequence, contagious diseases prevailed to such an alarming degree, in this particular district, that the Board of Health found it necessary to adopt the most stringent measures to guard against the spread of infection. And among other precautions, it was deemed advisable to supply lime and brushes, gratis, to every householder who was unable to purchase them. But this was done to no purpose; for it was with considerable difficulty we could induce many of the parties to use them. In fact, we were obliged to stop the rations of all who refused to comply with so reasonable a request, and this at length had the desired effect.

But now I am happy to say a totally different order of things has taken place, and a wish to please operates stronger than fear or constraint; and in consequence of an intimation having been received from the Secretary of your Auxiliary Committee, that a deputation from Waterford would visit this district for the purpose of witnessing what progress and improvement had been made in the social condition of the fishermen since the period of their last inspection in October, the greatest alacrity seems to prevail among all classes in making preparations for the wished-for approach of their benefactors. Women and children are emulously vieing with one another to remove everything calculated to offend the eye, or be displeasing to their visitors.

The Irish peasant is said to be heartless and ungrateful; and why? because he seldom meets with that indulgence and kind treatment which he might reasonably expect from his natural protectors, and which are calculated to elicit the kindlier feelings of a generous nature. I would rather say he is suspicious. He conceives that we have a selfish or interested motive in everything that we do, even though it may appear to be for his advantage; and until you convince him to the contrary, you will have much difficulty to overcome, before you can prevail upon him to adopt any measure of improvement for his own substantial benefit. And here let me mention a little incident, trifling indeed in itself, but sufficient to prove how unprepared the humbler classes in this country are for the reception of any mark of disinterested kindness emanating from persons unconnected with them by the

ordinary obligations of property or kindred. The case to which I allude, occurred a few days since, when a friend of mine was explaining in Irish (the only language intelligible here to the great majority) to a group of fishermen, while I was engaged in filling some orders I had promised them for hemp, how anxious your society were for the establishment of order, cleanliness, comfort and economy; and had stated how gratified you would be to observe such a visible improvement in themselves, their houses and fishing appointments on the day of inspection, whereupon one of the party remarked, "Indeed, Sir, we will do our best to please the gentlemen, hoping it may be the means of serving Mr. Alcock." And here, while we may perceive the gratitude of this poor man, who wished to repay in kind the favours he had received, we may also observe, that the mere pleasure of distributing another's bounty, could never, in his estimation, influence a person in a work of benevolence, unless he had an ulterior object in view.

You may be anxious to learn what steps, if any, have been taken for the attainment of the objects mentioned in former Reports, as so desirable for the advancement of the fisheries in this district. I allude more particularly to the construction of a Safety Harbour for the fishing boats. This subject, I have much pleasure in stating, has been most warmly advocated in various quarters, and memorials in favour of it have been forwarded by the parties locally interested to the Board of Works, praying for such accommodation for vessels as will render the outlay of capital at this station no longer a precarious but a safe investment. Those applications have had the desired effect of directing the attention of the Commissioners to this locality, and the most encouraging assurances have been received in reply. An engineer has been sent from Dublin to examine the different sites most suitable for a Safety Harbour, and make the necessary surveys, &c., so that I trust ere long to be able to say that our most sanguine expectations have been crowned with success.

Scarcely a week passes that our shores are not visited by some engineer, inspector, or other Government official, whose very appearance at the station acts as a stimulus to increased exertion among the fishermen, who are now becoming aware of their own importance, and the enviable position in which they are placed, and are cherishing the fond hope that much brighter days are yet in store for them.

When it is remembered that in the immediate vicinity of Helvick, 100 boats are constantly employed on an exposed coast, it would be superfluous to advance any argument in favour of its local advantages as a fishing station, and the probability is that this number will be doubled in the course of a very few years after the erection of the pier. Not only this, but vessels of a superior description will be introduced immediately, capable of standing out in rough weather, and therefore considerably more remunerative to the fisherman. What a vast field for employment will this open for our dense population! How it will relieve the workhouse of hundreds of those now congregated within its gloomy walls, and raise the labouring classes of the district from that degraded and servile position to which their late distressing trials had reduced them. The fisheries, if properly worked, contain inexhaustible treasures; they are now one of the greatest resources of Ireland, and it is the bounden duty of all to co-operate in forwarding every measure which has for its object the advancement of so useful and profitable a speculation.

Impressed with this feeling, we have had our attention particularly directed of late to the introduction of improved machinery among the fishermen, whereby the same number of hands with a small additional expense might be enabled to take a greater quantity of fish. And the first step towards the accomplishment of so desirable an object, is an improvement in the description of vessels employed at the station; now it is evident that this can only be accomplished by the construction of a Safety Harbour, co-extensive with the wants of the entire fishing population.

For a gift of two valuable herring-nets, complete with corks, roped and barked, to be used for the purpose of testing the superiority of such over those generally employed here, we are indebted to your Central Committee in Dublin. These nets have been entrusted to the care of a boat's crew, particularly remarkable for sobriety, honesty and general good conduct, on the understanding that a certain proportion of the profits arising therefrom shall be added weekly to our general fund; or if on trial the nets prove a profitable speculation, the present holders are at liberty to purchase them, and payment to be made by periodical instalments. The nets hitherto used are considerably smaller, and available only in shallow water within the harbour's mouth; but these now received are adapted for deep water, and from their great depth must prove more successful and remunerative to the fisherman. It is extremely difficult to wean our countrymen from early ingrafted habits; they cling with persevering tenacity to the beaten track of old-fashioned customs, and unless you thus actually place the machinery in their hands, and show them the beneficial results, it is almost useless to expect that they will adopt any of the modern improvements.

Through the agency of a kind friend in Waterford we have been fortunate enough to obtain a number of lobster-pots, such as those used on the coasts of England, and these in like manner have been lent on the same terms as the herring-nets. If they succeed, which we have every reason to hope will be the case, their adoption by the fishermen will become more general, and much practical good will be effected by this means.

We are also about to establish shops at the station for the sale of hooks, hemp, ropes, &c. &c., this will prove a great convenience to the fishermen, and a considerable saving of time, as Dungarvan is seven miles distant from Helvick; it will also remove the many temptations to which the fishermen are exposed, of spending their money foolishly when they meet their comrades in market-towns.

I shall now proceed to give a detailed account of the curing-houses at Helvick, in the hope that

that should these pages be circulated for the encouragement of the fishermen on the western shores of Ireland, they may be the means of imparting such information as will lead to the erection of similar establishments on every part of the coast, where the supply of fish taken is greater than the demand; and I am induced to do this in consequence of several communications that I received from various quarters, more especially from a very active member of your Auxiliary Society in Limerick, who desires to be accurately informed in all matters connected with the construction, management and working of this establishment for the benevolent purpose of instructing the unenlightened on the western shores of Clare. Should the account prove interesting to your Society, or contribute in the least degree to the benefit of those parties, for whom the information is sought, I shall consider myself amply repaid.

The Helvick Curing-House, which is a private speculation, has been recently erected by Lord Stuart de Decies, within a very short distance of the little dock or basin, which his Lordship, who has considerable property in the neighbourhood, caused to be constructed at Helvick for the benefit of his numerous tenantry. The situation is admirably selected, as from its proximity to the fishing-ground the boats can approach it at any period of the tide, and having landed their fish return again to the banks without loss of time; it is rented by two Scotchmen of considerable experience in the curing of fish, and to them is the entire management consigned.

The whole concern forms a kind of parallelogram, about 70 yards in length, but owing to an angle in one of the walls, it is 53 feet wide at one extremity, and 32 feet at the other; it is surrounded by a wall 11 feet high.

The Smoking-House, which is raised nine feet above the level of the wall, occupies one end of the inclosure, and is 32 feet by 14, and 20 feet high. It is divided into three apartments of 12, 12, and 8 feet by 14, and is capable of smoking 100 barrels of herrings at a time. Each of the apartments is again subdivided (the two former into three compartments each, the latter into two) by the erection of standards or beams, about four inches square, reaching from the floor to the roof; to these laths are appended, at an interval of 14 inches between each, on which the rods rest, which support the fish. Thus we have three distinct apartments or chambers for smoking, which may be used separately or together, according to the quantity of fish, and each subdivided into compartments four feet in front by 14. It should be observed that the lowest tier of rods, on which the fish are supported, must be at least seven feet from the floor, otherwise the fish would be materially injured by the fire from too close contact. There are usually three or four fires in each chamber during the process of smoking, which continues until the fish assumes a sufficiently high colour. The wood used as fuel is generally oak, ash, birch, elm, &c., but pine-wood, larch, or bog-fir, imparts a bitter taste to the fish, and is not therefore approved of. Turf may be used with the fire-wood, but it creates too much dust.

Opposite the smoking-house, at the further extremity of the yard, stands a large shed, 53 feet long, covered with tiles, which is used as a storehouse for the cured fish, salt, &c., and on either side of the yard are smaller sheds. Here are the salting houses, office, cooper's workshop, lumber-room for empty barrels, &c. &c.; a stream of fresh water runs through the centre of the yard; and on the northern side a wooden stage has been constructed reaching to low water-mark, which is a great convenience in unloading the boats.

Smoked Herrings.—Having thus giving a description of the buildings, I will now endeavour to explain the mode of curing herrings. When they are deposited in the yard, sprinkle a little salt over the heap, and mix it through them with the hands; this renders the herring more firm; then throw them indiscriminately into pickle, made sufficiently strong to float an egg; let them remain three days, after which, let them be washed in fresh water, and suspended in the smoking-house by means of rods, four feet in length (to correspond with the distances between the standards), passing through the mouth and gills. Particular care must be taken that the fires be not at any time too hot, for this would destroy all in a very short time; to guard against which, you should examine the fish from time to time, and if they become soft near the tail, or if you observe the flesh rising from the bone, or the herrings falling from the rods, you should immediately reduce the fires. The time required for smoking varies inversely as the quantity of fish in the house, for if the house be full, it will be smoked in less time, and it depends also on the quality of the fuel.

Should the take of herrings at any time be so large as to render it impossible or inconvenient to attend to them immediately, let them, on being removed from the pickle, be packed carefully in barrels, and some salt shaken over each layer, the barrels then filled with pickle, and in this state they will continue safe for months; but observe, that the longer they are suffered to remain in the pickle, the more steeping in fresh water they will require, previous to being smoked.

Smoked Haddock.—Open and clean the haddock, cut off the head, wash carefully in fresh water, remove all blood and other impurities, then split the fish nearly through from end to end, take out the back bone, wash again and place them in the pickling tub for half an hour, and smoke. They will keep after this process for 10 days or a fortnight. If the house be full, 24 hours smoking will suffice. If the haddock be very large, or if you wish to preserve them for some months let them remain an hour in pickle.—[*Note*, The same pickle will answer again and again, until it begins to get muddy and thick.]

Ling and Cod.—Open and clean the fish and take off the head, wash away all blood, and remove the black coating from the back and sides, then place the fish on a table, and split it down to the tail, take out the bone as far as the lower extremity of the belly, and be particularly careful in removing the blood vessel which runs to the tail, parallel to the back bone,

bone, otherwise the fish when cured will have a red appearance; wash again carefully and immerse in strong pickle for three days; after which scrape the back with a knife, wash off the blood, &c., and pack in barrels, sprinkling salt between each, or having allowed the fish to remain six days in pickle, remove it to a wooden frame, made of laths, and resting against a wall; there let it drain, turning it occasionally; expose it as much as possible to the influence of the air and sun, and when sufficiently dry, it may be removed to the storehouse.

The other fish cured at Helvick are, hake, pollock, mackerel, sprats, scad, bream, &c., which are treated somewhat similar to those mentioned. The current prices obtained for fish during the last week are as follows:—

	s.	d.	
Dried Ling	17	–	per cwt.
Dried Cod	15	6	„
Pickled Cod	23	–	per barrel.
„ Haddock	20	–	„
Smoked Haddock	25	–	„
„ Herrings	27	–	„

delivered free, on board the steamer, at Youghal, 14 miles distant.

It only remains for me, now, after having trespassed, I fear, too long upon your kind forbearance, to tender our unfeigned thanks for the two bales of clothing received within the last four months; consisting of pilot cloth jackets and trousers, flannel vests and drawers, shirts, shoes, hats, oiled coats, &c. &c., which, together with the herring-nets, already alluded to, were valued at 64*l*. To persons, of whom many had been forced to pawn their clothes for food, it is needless to say, what a valuable acquisition such a donation has proved. It has enabled them to endure the inclemency of the winter months, to which they must otherwise have fallen victims.

In concluding these remarks, I think it but justice to bear testimony to the peaceable disposition and general good conduct of these poor people, and it affords me much pleasure to state, that rarely do we hear of any misdemeanors being committed which calls for the interposition of magisterial authority. I may also add, that their labours are not confined exclusively to the sea, they are equally industrious and indefatigable on shore; and the consequence is, that all will be able to cultivate their small holdings, so that our prospects for the following year are equally cheering and bright.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours truly obliged,

James Alcock, Vicar of Ring,
County of Waterford.

Seaview, Dungarvan, April 13th, 1848.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Original Grants	57	–	–			
Cash received for the sale of clothes	6	2	6			
Weekly instalments paid in	77	2	3			
				140	4	9
Amount of Loans and disbursements to this date				132	11	6
Cash on hands	£.			7	13	3

THE FOURTH QUARTERLY REPORT from the RING DISTRICT, addressed to the AUXILIARY RELIEF COMMITTEE of the SOCIETY OF FRIENDS in *Waterford.*

Gentlemen,

IT was my intention to have forwarded this Report to you at the commencement of the month, but two causes concurred, which induced me to overhold it until now. First, I was anxious to see the bitterness of July pass, and the introduction of new provisions into our markets; and, secondly, I had hoped to have it in my power to announce that the Safety Harbour, which we have been labouring for a considerable time to obtain, was in course of being built, and that consequently, all our able-bodied poor, from the mountainous districts adjoining, were actively employed in forwarding so useful an undertaking. The months of June and July are generally the most trying to the poor of this locality, as fish is then, for the most part, scarce, and provisions bear an exorbitant price; but the time has now arrived, when almost all our fishermen can supply themselves with sea stores from the produce of their own little farms, without the necessity of going into the market to purchase. Thanks to an all-wise Providence, there is every prospect of a plentiful harvest, and the well-cultivated potato gardens afford every promise of yielding an early and abundant return.

To the Commissioners of Public Works we have every reason to feel most grateful, for the very prompt and decided attention with which they treated our application for a Safety Harbour

Harbour, and for the very liberal grant which they propose to give for the construction of a pier and slip at Ballinagoul; and to Captain Frazer, R.N., for his Report to the Board of Admiralty, recommending a dock at Crows' Point, near Helvick, we feel equally indebted. Had Captain Frazer's views been carried out, Helvick Head would hold a very prominent position on the map of Ireland, and the proposed harbour would form a work of great national importance, as affording a place of shelter, not only for the fishing craft of Dungarvan and its vicinity, but for the merchant vessels trading to that and the adjacent ports, to which they could resort in stress of weather. It would also lead to the introduction of a larger and better description of boats at Ring. However, the estimated cost of such an undertaking would be greater than the Commissioners of Works could sanction,—greater than we, in justice to other places requiring similar grants, could reasonably expect; and the consequent assessment on the adjoining lands considerably more than the occupiers could repay, in depressed times like the present. The former site has therefore been approved of, and from a communication lately received, we have every reason to hope that the execution of the work will soon commence. This site has one very decided advantage over the other, that it is close to the dwellings of the great majority of the fishermen, where they can have their boats under their own immediate inspection.

But while to the Commissioners of Works we thus express our thanks, I regret to say that we have not experienced the same compliance from the Board of Fisheries, who still refuse to accede to the prayer of a memorial addressed to them, on the subject of the trammel-net question. The restrictions against the use of this net are still continued, which is a very great injury to our fishermen, who heretofore adopted and used this mode of taking fish, with considerable success, during the autumnal months. The Commissioners seem to apprehend that any alteration in the laws, as at present constituted, would lead to riot and confusion among the conflicting interests, and that a breach of the peace might consequently ensue. But to this, it may be answered, that the severe privations to which all classes of fishermen have been subjected, within the last three years, have tended materially to remove the animosity and jealousies which formerly prevailed among rival parties, and that a better and more charitable feeling is now engendered among them.

Again, the existing laws are much more likely to lead to the very consequences which the Commissioners so much apprehend, and which we should struggle together to guard against. For from my own observation and experience, supported by the unanimous voice of those using the trammel-nets, I can confidently state that it is morally impossible for persons using such nets to comply with the present laws; with those laws which require them to have all their nets taken up before sunrise each morning. For it often happens, even though the weather in the morning be moderate, that those nets had drifted from their moorings in the course of the night, and the owners require more time than the law allows to find them. The nets also are liable to become entangled from the struggles of the fish and other causes; this in like manner retards the fishermen, and prevents them from observing a law, which they may be most willing to obey under ordinary circumstances. While thus delayed, the hand-line fishermen observe them, and regarding them as violaters of the Fishery Laws, they bear down upon them with their larger boats, and a breach of the peace is the inevitable consequence; whereas, if a reasonable time were allowed the trammel men to take up their nets, no such angry collisions could take place.

The present law appears, therefore, to me, most oppressive, for it goes to prevent the use of the trammel-net altogether, or it involves such difficulties as the fishermen are unable to overcome, and hence they are forced to violate it.

I could mention different instances of loss of property, to a considerable amount, having been sustained at various times by our fishermen, their nets having been illegally seized by unauthorized pessons and subsequently forfeited; but I shall confine myself to the minutes of evidence taken in a particular case which came before the Commissioners of Fisheries at a public inquiry held at Dingle in the year 1836, where this question of the trammel-nets was brought before the notice of the local magistrates, and subsequently before the Inspectors-general, H. Townsend and J. Redmond Barry, Esqrs., as given in the First Report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the state of the Irish Fisheries, Appendix 20, page 126. From the evidence adduced, "It appeared that the long-line fishermen, when they found the trammel-nets, which generally belong to the poorest class of the district, in the water, proceeded soon after sunrise to seize and destroy them, and in some instances took the fish they found therein, and appropriated it to their own use. The aggrieved owners of the nets went before the magistrates to complain of the illegality of such proceedings, and to demand restitution for the injury they sustained; but instead of obtaining any redress, they were told that if they admitted to the ownership of the nets they would subject themselves to a severe penalty for having suffered their nets to remain in the water even a short time after sunrise."

Now, after the perusal of the foregoing statement of facts, your Committee will doubtless conclude that the line fishermen were well prepared with sound and convincing arguments against the use of trammel-nets to justify them, in some degree, for such a palpable violation of all law, to which it also appears in evidence they "were spirited on by the local magistrates;" but no such thing; all that was elicited at the investigation was from the evidence of one man, who stated, that about four years previously "He hooked a dead hake, and after that he caught no fish during the night;" the same man had to admit that dead fish are at times thrown in upon the coast where no trammels are used. Another reason he assigned for thinking trammels injurious to the fishery is, that "they may injure the spawn of fish by sometimes scraping on the ground."

I shall here give the opinion of Messrs. Barry and Townsend, which prefaces the foregoing Report. "The Commissioners of the Irish Fishery inquiry, who visited Dingle, in transmitting the minutes of evidence taken there on an inquiry into the complaints of the persons whose trammel-nets were taken and destroyed by the line-fishermen, do not hesitate to say that, in their opinion, the objection to these nets, used in the manner and in the places where it appears they have been used, was unreasonable and unfounded, and the conduct of the line-fishermen most illegal and outrageous. It is quite clear, however, that the law stands in a most undefined and embarrassing state, and requires immediate attention. Breaches of the peace will constantly occur until the question is settled." The Commissioners, in the 20th page of their first General Report, state, that "the use of the trammel-net is a cause of much dissension, and various evidence has been offered for and against its employment; it appears, however, that one great objection to it is, its efficacy as an instrument, and its consequent influence on the price of fish. The Commissioners do not see cause for recommending any restrictions on its use in the open sea;" (signed by 10 Commissioners or Inspectors).

Now what language could be stronger than this? and yet the obnoxious restrictions are suffered to continue in force! All persons interested in the Ring Fisheries are anxious to have such laws as can be observed, and when such are made, to see that they are respected; accordingly applications have been made to the Commissioners of Fisheries, and a choice of the following alterations proposed for their consideration: either to do away with all restrictions against the free use of trammel-nets, and thus allow the same freedom for them as is enjoyed in England to so much advantage, or to grant a license for their use within certain limits on either side of the bay, which the 5th section of 7th George IV., chap 34, empowers the Board to give, or lastly, to allow such an extension of time each morning as will enable the fishermen to take up their nets and remove the fish without violating the law. Were some such concession granted, the Commissioners would do much to prevent the recurrence of those disgraceful scenes of riot and bloodshed which of late years have been enacted at some stations. They would also by this means materially advance the interests of our fisheries, if, as hostile parties represent, the trammel-nets are really injurious; for if some greater latitude were given, these nets would be all taken up, if not before sunrise, at least before seven or eight o'clock, a.m., as the season may be, and not suffered to remain in the water by day, as is the case at present, frequently till noon or evening, that is, till the large boats have gone up to the Quay of Dungarvan at high-water to dispose of their fish, and the coast is clear for small boats to venture to sea without fear or molestation. I have to apologise for dwelling thus long upon this subject, but it is one of vital importance to the poorer classes of fishermen living on the immediate coast, who have seldom a friend or advocate to plead their cause, and who are often silenced by the clamour of their more powerful opponents.

Having disposed of the trammel-net question, I come now to speak of our curing-houses at Helvick, which, I am glad to say, are succeeding remarkably well, and many persons who came from considerable distances to visit them expressed themselves highly pleased. What a blessing does such an establishment confer, where there is at all times a demand for fish after the ordinary markets are supplied? What a field for employment does it afford to women and children? How convenient to the fisherman to land his fish at Helvick, instead of going on to Dungarvan, a distance of four miles, whereby much valuable time is lost? How different was the state of our markets some years since, when we are told "that the fishing boats of Dungarvan, one of the principal stations on the South of Ireland, had no inducement to catch fish beyond the limited quantity required for the consumption of the town? If the fishing of one day supplied this quantity, the remainder of the week was spent in utter idleness at home, where there was neither encouragement or facilities for curing or purchasers for the surplus." It was also notorious about the same time, "that the fishermen were in the habit of destroying a part of what they had caught, when the supply was, as they thought, too abundant." In addition to the advantages already mentioned, I may add, that Lord Stuart de Decies has given the conductors of this establishment a few acres of land, which they are cultivating in a very superior manner, and among other improvements, by using the offal of the fish as manure, they afford an example to our agriculturists well worthy of imitation. They are at present engaged in extracting oil from the blubber of a large number of bottle-nose whales, which were captured on the Ring Strand on the morning of the 15th instant. These monsters of the deep were observed about sunrise, disporting on the waters, not very far from shore, and in an inconceivably short space of time every boat from Ballinagoul and Helvick was launched to give chase; the whales amounted to about 60, and averaged from 18 to 24 feet in length. By the judicious arrangement of the fishermen, assisted by the coast-guard, a barricade of boats was drawn across the harbour's mouth to prevent the possibility of escape, and a few well-directed discharges from a motley assortment of guns and pistols caused the enemy to retreat in the direction of the shore. Then commenced in good earnest the work of slaughter; men and women having plunged into the water, now not more than four feet deep, seized their victims by the long fins on either side, while the more robust plunged their long knives and hooks into the animal's heart. A few, more daring than the rest, having mounted, sat astride upon the monsters' backs, and though carried along for a while at railway speed, failed not with their hatchets to inflict death-bearing wounds with fatal precision; every available weapon was put in requisition, and for about an hour the contest raged with unabated violence and determination, the sea for a considerable distance around being literally crimsoned with blood. Suffice it to say, that not one of the shoal was suffered to escape. The value of the blubber thus obtained has

has been estimated at 250 *l.*; an inestimable boon to our poor fishermen at this particular season, which is, as I before observed, the most unproductive period of the year.

I have much pleasure in stating with reference to our loan-fund, that the people here are every day appreciating the value of it more and more, and by their general good conduct and punctual payments have convinced me that were such a course more generally adopted among this class of persons along the Irish Coast, the benefits conferred would be incalculably great, for the small sums that we give are only intended to assist industry, not to foster or support idleness. And here I may mention a curious fact, for the accuracy of which I can vouch with confidence, that the parties on whom such loans have been conferred, have prospered to such a degree in their different speculations, that they are all impressed with the idea that there is some charm in the "Friends' money;" and several persons whose circumstances disentitled them to any relief from our funds, have come to me soliciting a loan, saying that their boat required a sail or a new cable, and if I advanced them the price of it, they would repay me immediately the full amount advanced without expecting to be allowed the usual abatement of 25 per cent. for regular payments; adding, that unless I complied with their request their crew would abandon them. And how are we to account for this extraordinary success? How explain whence originated this strange impression among them, unless by attributing to industry, perseverance and sobriety, what they ascribe to talismanic influence? for they know perfectly well that to meet the weekly payments, they must labour constantly with diligence and assiduity, so as not to fall into arrear. They must also be temperate and correct in their general conduct, otherwise they forfeit all claim to further assistance; and hence the great mystery may be solved.

In my last Report, I gave an account of the process of saving fish as practised at the Helvick Curing House; and in connexion with that subject, I would here direct public attention to another of equal importance; I mean the herring fishery, from which, if properly worked, the greatest benefit might fairly be expected to result; for among a potato-fed people like the Irish, there is always a ready sale for such an article; and if we reflect for a moment upon the thousands of pounds that yearly leave this country for the purchase of foreign cured herrings, we shall form a proper estimate of their value. But here we have not the proper appointments for taking them, and in this respect we are far behind other countries. Even in Scotland the herring fishery was, until a late period, confined almost altogether to the northern shores, and it was the general opinion that these fish were not to be found farther south than Banffshire. Nor was it till those industrious people were forced to abandon their native villages during the prevalence of cholera in the Highlands, that they proceeded in search of fish as far South as Peterhead, and having made a trial of that part, were eminently successful. Since that period the fisheries have improved very much, and three large saw mills are now at full work at Peterhead, in cutting staves for barrels.

It has been ascertained that herrings are also to be found in large shoals on the Irish coast, but our fishermen are unacquainted with the proper method of taking them; they therefore never think of going in search of them; on the contrary, they wait until the fish advance within the harbour's mouth, and then they have a harvest for perhaps a week, after which the herrings are dispersed and leave us, and we hear no more of them for the season. A few words, therefore, on the Scotch method of fishing may not be uninteresting. Their boats are large, made sharp at both ends, and have two masts and a pair of lug-sails. Each vessel has a crew of five persons, who are provided with from 15 to 20 nets of 33 fathoms in length each, and a sufficient number of bladders or corks to float them. About the month of July the season commences, and the fleet proceeds to sea each evening to a distance of 20 or 30 miles. They fish during the night, and return about eight o'clock the following morning. When they reach the harbour, the curers meet them at the landing place, and receive the herrings in large boxes, by which they convey them to the stores.

Having given in a former Report a description of the manner in which herrings are smoked, I shall here confine myself to the process of salting. The curers, who have frequently 100 women employed, divide these into separate classes or crews, each class being distinguished by a particular number or figure, by which not only is the particular class known, but all the barrels of fish that have been saved by that class, for the barrel bears a number similar to the class, the object of which is, that if any carelessness has been discovered when the fish is examined, it is immediately ascertained who are the parties in fault. Two women are usually engaged in gutting the fish while one is packing them, and a cooper stands near to superintend the work, and see that all is done properly. Particular care must be taken not to handle the herrings roughly, or injure the scales, as that deteriorates much from their value. Two bushels of salt is the complement allowed for each barrel of fish. The barrels when filled as described in my Third Report, are suffered to stand on end two days, after which the pickle is poured partly off, and the barrels again filled up and made tight. They are then laid on the side, in which position they continue 14 days, after which the barrels are raised up, opened, examined, and refilled to the top; then the testing officer is called to inspect the fish, and if they please him, he fixes the Crown brand on each barrel, which renders it fit for any market. The first shipments are generally made for Hamburgh and Stettin, after which they export to Ireland.

In conclusion, I shall merely observe in reference to the fishermen themselves, that it affords me much pleasure to be able to state that a very decided change for the better has taken place in their condition within the last 12 months, and that the improvement is progressive; not that they have had it in their power yet to save much money, or make

heavy lodgments in the Savings' Bank; that was not to be expected, when you bear in mind that at the time we commenced our operations last year they had neither nets nor lines, and their boats were very much in need of repairs; but they have had sufficient to maintain their families without the necessity of selling or pawning their fishing appointments; and now that the season for hake, herrings, sprats and mackerel is about to commence, they are for the most part well provided with gear of every description, to which they are adding daily. The bale of hemp which your Committee kindly forwarded to us is now being converted into nets. It has been highly approved of by the fishermen as infinitely superior in quality to any that can be procured here. How gratifying would it have been to you to have visited the village of Ballinagoul, as I did a few evenings since, and to have seen the spinning wheels at full work in every house. I may here mention, as a proof of the comparative comfort and abundance which continue to prevail in every cottage, that not more than three or four applications were made to me from the villages of Ring, Helvick and Ballinagoul, for a share of the last provisions which your Secretary consigned to me, and these were from either widows or orphans who have not solicited out-door relief.

Having brought the labours of the year to, I trust, a satisfactory termination, I beg to submit the following statement of account to your inspection, the particulars of which I am at any moment prepared to lay before you, giving the name of every party to whom a loan was advanced.

And again thanking you for your persevering attention to every measure calculated to promote the happiness of my parishioners,

I am, Gentlemen,

Your most faithful Servant,

James Alcock, Vicar of Ring.

Seaview, July 28th, 1848. County of Waterford.

Statement of Accounts.

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Amount of Grants, &c.	63	2	6			
Weekly Instalments, paid in	92	11	8			
Bale of Hemp, 560lbs.	24	10	–			
				180	4	2
Amount of Loans and Disbursements				178	9	8
Balance £.				1	14	6

L.

FACTS from the Fisheries: Part Fourth; Being the Fifth Report from the Ring District, County *Waterford*.

The continued public interest evinced respecting the efforts making to promote the Fisheries in this neighbourhood, induces the Waterford Auxiliary Relief Committee of the Society of Friends to publish the annexed interesting Report, received from the philanthropic Vicar of Ring, for the half-year that has just terminated.

During the past month, two members of the committee visited the district, and were much gratified at observing a visible improvement in the condition and appearance of the fishermen and there families. The boats and fishing gear were in good order and active operation; their clothing and furniture had been released from the pawn-office; most of their dwellings were newly thatched, and the whole place wore a thriving aspect.

The sub-committee inspected some of the cottages, and saw in them considerable quantities of salted fish (Hake), which the fishermen had cured, and were, owing to their improved circumstances, keeping for sale until the time called Lent.

Being desirous of ascertaining its aggregate value, an inventory was taken of each man's stock, and on calculating the whole at the usual market price, it was found, much to the surprise of all parties, that it amounted to upwards of 1,500 *l.*! This, besides what had been sold in a fresh state, to meet the current family expenses, had all been caught within the few previous weeks by trammel-nets, supplied by means of small loans to the crews of 21 boats; and the fishermen stated, and their testimony was corroborated by other persons, that only for the day-light restriction upon the free use of this kind of net, they would have captured double the quantity of fish, and thrice the number of boats and men would have been engaged in the same lucrative employment.

What stronger evidence could be required, both of the great value of the trammel-net, and of the rich treasure that abounds on our coast?

Facts

Facts of this nature speak much more loudly than words, and the committee earnestly hope, that a knowledge of this gratifying circumstance will lead to the early and entire removal of the impolitic day-light restriction to which the Irish trammel-fisher is subjected, and likewise induce the adoption of other simple and efficacious measures, calculated to promote the profitable and permanent extension of our coast fisheries.

Waterford, 1st Month 19th, 1849.

The Fifth Report from the Ring District, addressed to the Auxiliary Relief Committee of the Society of Friends in *Waterford*.

Gentlemen,

Six months have now elapsed since last I had the gratification of placing before your Committee a statement of our proceedings here, and it now becomes my pleasing duty to submit to you an account of the fruits which have resulted from the good seed that you have enable us to sow, and to assure you that we are in no respect retrograding, and that our prospects are every day becoming more bright and cheering. In former Reports I confined myself to an explanation of our arrangements and the details of expenditure, &c.; I come now to speak of the happy and comfortable condition of this little community, as compared with former years.

Before doing so, however, I would advert to a subject upon which I dwelt at some length in my last communication to you, because of its very great importance to the Ring Fishermen; I allude to the restrictions upon the free use of trammel-nets by day in the open sea. You are aware that repeated applications and memorials have been from time to time addressed to the Board of Fisheries, complaining of the grievances under which we laboured, and praying for a repeal of such impolitic and injurious laws. We also took occasion to forward a petition from a number of poor persons, whose nets were illegally seized and impounded by unauthorized parties, and this was supported by a strong remonstrance from Lord Stuart de Decies, the Lord Lieutenant of the county, who most kindly undertook to advocate the cause of these ill-used people; and the consequence was, that the Commissioners at length announced by public advertisement, that they would hold a meeting in Dungarvan for the purpose of hearing evidence on both sides, for and against the unrestricted use of such nets, and entering into such arrangements, if possible, as would be satisfactory to all parties.

This proposed meeting was particularly pleasing to us, although the reception which our party met with on a similar occasion, in 1842, was anything but flattering. We conceived that a good opportunity would be afforded us of placing our views and opinions on record, and bringing before the public much useful information, calculated not only to remove old and deeply-rooted prejudices, but to lead to the permanent and substantial benefit both of this district, and of all classes of fishermen in Ireland. We were prepared to show that it was not our object to aggrandize one party at the expense of another, but rather, as far as lay in our power, to improve the social condition of all. We saw with regret that the hand-line fishermen, though supplied with much more expensive craft than we have in Ring, were unable to support their families: we witnessed them presenting themselves in hundreds at the workhouse for admission, and we naturally asked why, if your mode of fishing is not able to supply the bare necessaries of life, do you not adopt ours? The hookers, which for the most part belong to the merchants and traders of Dungarvan, and in which the line fishermen are employed, have two important advantages over other craft. They are excellent sea boats, and the cost of a pair of lines does not exceed 3 *s.*, so that for this small sum the fisherman can equip himself for the season. But there are many disadvantages to counterbalance these; first, the boat itself is expensive, the usual cost being about 120 *l.*; secondly, it is cumbersome and unwieldy, and cannot be conveniently propelled by oars; it therefore does not answer for trammel or herring nets. It requires, also, after a few years, a considerable and frequent outlay for repairs, and consequently the share of the profits set apart for the owners is more than the working fisherman, in justice to himself and family, can afford to allow. To remedy these objections, and to prove the inferiority of such craft, as compared with the boats used in England and Scotland, we are now building at Helvick, with the funds which your committee kindly placed at our disposal, two model boats, each equal in tonnage to an ordinary sized hooker. Their cost is calculated at about 60 *l.* each, and were it not for the many difficulties we had to contend with, in providing the necessary machinery for a commencement, such as a steam-boiler for preparing the planks and paying a person to superintend the work, (the ship carpenters of the adjoining towns not understanding how such boats were constructed), the expense would be considerably less. These boats will be available for various kinds of fishing, viz., hand-lines, spilliards, herring and trammel-nets, lobster pots, &c. &c.; and when one mode proves unsuccessful, the fishermen can easily try another.

We were also prepared to prove, by means of perfectly disinterested witnesses, that nets do not frighten away the shoals of fish as represented, for lines and nets have been used for several months continuously on the same fishing ground, between Helvick and Mine Head, a distance not exceeding a league, and more large fish were taken on this identical bank by the lines, than on those parts of the coast where no nets were set.

With such evidence as this, corroborated by the concurrent testimony of practical fishermen from England, Scotland and Ireland, we had prepared ourselves for the meeting; but the Commissioners apprehending that the proposed discussion and examination of witnesses might cause renewed animosity between the rival parties, suggested a compromise, and

declined hearing either party. Some discussion ensued, and the Commissioners present, finally stated that although the matter should abide the determination of the entire Board, that they were prepared to recommend an extension of the time in the morning, for taking up the nets; but they intimated it as their opinion, that the law prohibiting the trammel being put out before sunset, ought to be continued, suggesting as a reason, that the fisherman could proceed to the fishing-ground in the daylight, and have everything in readiness to put out his nets the moment the sun sunk below the horizon, and that when the sun was not visible, there might be a concerted signal from the Water Guard Station, by lowering a flag at sunset; and such an arrangement would allow the fishermen sufficient light to return to the shore. The objections to this arrangement are obvious. The Water Guard Station might not be visible to parts of the fishing-ground, by reason of the interposition of headlands, or it might be occasionally obscured by fogs; and the fishing-ground might be also distant from the harbour to which the boats should return for shelter. Moreover, a gentleman that we had intended to examine as a witness, here remarked, in reference to the prejudicial effects of this sunset restriction, that most of the trammel men were also herring-fishers; and that if they were allowed to set their trammels early in the afternoon, they would have time to return to the shore, take in their herring-nets, and fish with them during the night; but that whilst the restriction continued, this could not be done, without transgressing the law and subjecting themselves to severe penalties. The truthfulness of this plain and convincing statement was not disputed: but one of the Commissioners replied, that the case put, did not appear to him to call for the abrogation of the sunset restriction, inasmuch "as he was sure, that under such circumstances no magistrate would inflict the penalty;" and with this understanding, the meeting, after some further discussion, separated.

I am aware that the Commissioners are invested under the several Fishery Acts, with very extensive powers, administrative, legislative and judicial; but on reflecting upon the subject, I confess it seems to me, that there is a manifest inconsistency in continuing a law, restrictive of industry and enterprise, upon the understanding that it is not to be enforced; as well as something unconstitutional in investing the magistrate with any such discretion. The bane of this country has long been, that the laws are not duly obeyed and respected; the object we therefore sought to obtain was, the removal or relaxation of a prohibitory law, not a stay of its execution.

From circumstances that have, since the meeting, come to my knowledge, I entertain the most sanguine hopes, that in a short time all parties will be convinced of the correctness of our views, and come forward unanimously to memorial the Board of Fisheries to do away with the restrictions altogether, and leave the poor fishermen at liberty to earn a livelihood by day as well as by night. It is well known that the opposition to trammel-net fishing was as great a few years since in Bantry and Dingle as it has been here; and to such an extent was it carried, that the authorities had to interpose for the purpose of preventing, if possible, the angry collisions that were daily occurring. However, time has effected in those localities a wonderful change in the minds of the people; not only the fishermen, but the public at large now see the superiority of those nets as a means of taking fish, and they are freely used in those harbours both day and night. I have been credibly informed, on the authority of a gentleman who lately visited those stations, on a tour of inspection, that the quantity of hake taken in those two places, whilst he was there, exceeded 40 tons per day. What a valuable source of employment is this! and what a quantity of nutritious and wholesome food does it circulate through the surrounding country! With such information as this before me, I cannot see why lines should not be cast aside, at certain seasons, and nets substituted in their stead. It argues an obstinate and pertinacious adherence to old customs, especially if it can be proved by a simple statement of facts, that the net is the more efficient instrument. This appeared to be very much doubted by our opponents; indeed they seemed quite incredulous, until a member of your Committee, who was present at the meeting, rose and said, that he had been the day previous in Ring, and had visited the houses of some of the fishermen there; that he had much pleasure in bearing testimony to the great and progressive improvement of that little community, and would state one interesting fact, which he felt assured would be highly gratifying to every person present, viz.: that the Ring fishermen, after supplying the wants of their families, and redeeming much of their clothing, furniture and fishing gear, from the pawn-office, had at that moment in their houses, reserved for the spring market, from 1,500*l.* to 2,000*l.* worth of cured fish, which had all been caught with the trammel-net.

Yes, gentlemen, upwards of 1,500*l.* worth of fish in two small hamlets, where the great majority of the inhabitants, only 18 months before, were depending upon the bounty of others for the bare necessaries of life, and had neither nets nor lines, nor the means of procuring them. I need scarcely mention what a sensation the announcement of this fact created at the meeting, particularly among the line fishermen, who densely filled the Court House.

Some good has, I am happy to say, already resulted from the meeting, though not as much as might be calculated upon had we been afforded an opportunity of explaining our views more fully. It was the means of bringing together several highly influential gentlemen from various parts of the county, among whom we noticed Lord Stuart de Decies, Sir R. Mursgrave, Sir C. Shaw, Francis E. Curry, J. P., Edward Odell, J. P., Nelson Foley, Esqrs., and many others; and from the lively interest they took in the proceedings, I have no doubt that each returned home impressed with the idea that it lay in the power of every landed proprietor having property on the sea coast, to assist, at a very trifling expense, the small

small holders of land, and that by so doing they would materially improve their own estates and relieve themselves from the heavy pressure of taxation.

It is also worthy of remark that one gentleman who took a very prominent part in organizing the proceedings against us, and who at a preparatory meeting, moved that subscriptions should be entered into, for the purpose of employing counsel to resist our demands, became such a convert to our opinions, after visiting Helvick and testing the correctness of our statements, that he has now determined upon appropriating, for the curing of fish, an establishment he has in Dungarvan, and has also stated his intention of building fishing-boats similar to those we are constructing at Helvick. If the boat owners in general be not blind to their own interest, they will all follow the same good example, and by procuring proper nets and gear, experience that by so doing, they are not only bettering the condition of the fishermen in their employment, but adding considerably to their own gains.

Let me not be misunderstood as presuming to say, that any of the suggestions I have offered are new discoveries; I only mean that they are new to those who have never advanced beyond a pair of hand-lines, and who for years have been, in vain, struggling to support themselves. It is truly painful to observe, that while our shores literally teem with fish of various kinds, about 100,000*l.* yearly leave this impoverished country for the purchase of herrings which might be procured at home. It is of considerable advantage to the public, not only to have the markets largely supplied with fresh fish, but that the supply should be regular and constant. It is well known that there are times when no boats can put to sea; and here again the superiority of nets is apparent, for it is while the sea is disturbed and discoloured, that such engines are most efficient; the Ring men take advantage of a momentary lull or calm to set their nets, and by this means often bring large quantities of fish into market when the Hookers are weather-bound in harbour. It is also universally admitted among the fishermen, that hake will not take the bait on dark nights, owing to a luminous or phosphoric appearance in the water, whilst it is at such times that nets are most successful, hence it happens that when the market cannot be supplied from the one source, it is from the other.

Your Committee will be much pleased to learn that the pier and landing slip at Ballinagoul are advancing rapidly, even beyond our most sanguine expectations. This is in a measure to be accounted for, by the great facility with which the materials for building are procured from an excellent quarry that was discovered at a short distance from the work. The masonry is well executed, and reflects much credit upon the overseer in charge. We have had already an opportunity of testing the benefits likely to result from it when completed, by the protection it afforded our little fleet during the late heavy gales. We also had a decided proof of its own stability, for though the work was fresh, and the tide had arisen, by the force of the storm, to an unusual height, not a stone was shaken or displaced.

I cannot report as favourably as I could wish of the success of our curing-house, during the last six months; this is accounted for, when I inform you that no fish has been taken here in any quantities during that period, except hake, and for these, when cured, there is not much demand in the English markets. As to herrings, it is true some were taken, but these readily brought from 3*s.* to 5*s.* per 100, and at such prices they would not repay the curers. From information received among the fishermen, I have reason to believe that large shoals of these valuable fish continued for some weeks at a distance from the shore; indeed they were often visible from our lofty cliffs, but the weather was so boisterous and threatening, that our little craft were unable to follow them into deep water, and even had the weather permitted, the nets used here, as already stated, are not calculated for taking herrings, except within the harbour. Edwards and Lister (the Scotch curers) had made all the necessary arrangements, and supplied themselves with a large stock of barrels, salt, &c., but the herring fishery having proved a failure this season, nothing was done at Helvick. The distress and anxiety of these two persons at seeing, in those shoals of fish, such mines of wealth placed by the bounty of Providence almost within their grasp, if only they had been provided with the proper instruments of art for their capture, was truly characteristic of their nation. They used to return to the dockyard in moody silence, after witnessing such scenes, to urge on the ship carpenters to use increased energy and exertion towards the completion of the boats they had in hands, in the hope that a remnant at least of that highly prized fish might be caught, before they passed on and became a prey to those who were better prepared for their approach.

Seeing now that we have a pier and slip at Ballinagoul, a dock and curing-house at Helvick, a walled-in piece of ground set apart by Lord Stuart for the use of the fishermen, where they can dry their nets each day on their return from sea, and two good sea boats nearly completed, our next move is to provide steady and competent skippers to take charge of these craft, and instruct others in fishing; to attain so desirable an object, we have written to Scotland to engage two such persons, on the understanding that they are to come for a specified period, say a year, and to receive a certain proportion of the fish caught, and if the sale of it does not produce for them a stipulated sum, the balance is to be made up to them in cash. We have not had as yet a reply to our communication.

The next suggestion which I would offer for the improvement of this little community, is the establishment of "bait beds" at Ballinagoul and Helvick. There were some excellent mussel banks in the channel of the river previous to the famine years 1847–48, but these being unprotected, the poor of the surrounding district soon discovered them, and carried away in cart-loads all the bait they could find to use it as food; bait has, in consequence, since become very scarce. It is the practice of our fishermen to use spilliard-lines from the

month of December to the May following, for catching haddock, cod, ling, &c., and if there was a sufficiency of bait each man could provide himself with 600 fathoms of line, and the same number of hooks. The only bait at present available for these is the "lug-worm," procured on the strand at low water, but as they are deeply buried in the sand, they are only obtained in small quantities, and with considerable labour and hardship, particularly in bad weather; hence it requires that two persons should be constantly employed on shore to provide bait for one man at sea. Where there is a large family of grown-up children, this difficulty is in a great measure obviated; but when the fisherman has not such assistance, it is usual for two families to join in partnership, and one party to take charge of the lines, while the other collects bait; and thus instead of having ten or twelve hundred fathoms of line, they have not more than four, which renders the chance of fish only one-third of what it otherwise would be. To enable all parties therefore to fish at this particular season more effectually, we propose purchasing bait and forming beds, from which all who are disposed to buy can provide themselves without loss of time or labour. And I have also given notice that I will countenance and assist, from the funds at my disposal, such parties as thus buy the bait, and keep steadily and constantly to fishing only. By this "organization of labour," a double object will be gained; the regular continuous fishing will bring in a greatly increased supply; and the gathering of bait will afford employment to many poor widows and orphans, several of whom are very expert and assiduous in procuring it.

The next improvement which I would mention was suggested to me by a member of your Auxiliary Committee, who visited the district in December last. On that occasion, among other things, we inspected the houses of the fishermen, and while the gentleman to whom I allude expressed his admiration at beholding the piles of cured fish in every apartment, he could not refrain from lamenting that they had not some other repository for storing it in, as it would contribute much to the cleanliness and comfort as well as to the health of the inhabitants. We took occasion some time after to allude to this subject in the presence of Sir Charles Shaw, the active and intelligent agent of Lord Stuart de Decies, and that gentleman at once entered warmly into it, and proposed erecting a building, with suitable compartments, as a general storehouse for the dried fish.

Before concluding this Report, I may here mention that the nets of several of our fishermen, to whom we had advanced loans, were illegally seized in the early part of the season, and detained; the consequence has been that these poor persons have lost all the benefit which otherwise would have been derived from them. Under these circumstances, and with the approval of your Secretary, I was induced, in some few instances, to forego my claim upon the sufferers for repayment. Some of those nets, it is true, have since been restored by an order from the Board of Fisheries, but in such a tattered condition that most of them are rendered useless. However, I am happy to say that notwithstanding such oppressive treatment, all our able-bodied fishermen continue actively employed, and contrive not only to keep themselves aloof from the workhouse, but to assist many of their less fortunate neighbours.

In the foregoing statement, I think I have included everything connected with this district, which may prove interesting to your Committee; it only remains now for me to observe, that in addition to the many benefits conferred upon our own district, by the system of relief we have been pursuing for the last 18 months, an active spirit of emulation begins to manifest itself in various places along the coast, to promote the same desirable object, and many gentlemen are now anxious to undertake a similar part in their own immediate neighbourhood. I am led to form this conclusion from the numerous applications made to us, weekly, for information as to our mode of proceeding.

Were all parties thus to unite in promoting the welfare of our common country, we might then look forward with some confidence to the moral regeneration of Ireland, and expect to behold her people peaceable, contented and happy.

I have the honour to remain, Gentlemen,
Your faithful Servant,
James Alcock,
Vicar of Ring.

Seaview, 10 January 1849.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS:

	£.	s.	d.
Amount of Grants from Friends' Society	50	–	–
Ditto ditto from London Ladies' Committee	7	–	–
Sale of Clothes	6	2	6
Further Grant from the Auxiliary Committee	10	–	–
Donation from Colonel and Mrs. Sabine, Kent Cottage, Woolwich	5	–	–
Amount of Repayments	111	8	–
£.	189	10	6
Amount of Disbursements	203	10	6
In Advance £.	14	–	–

Number of Loans issued altogether, 214, in sums varying from 5 *s.* to 4 *l.*

M.

REPORT on the FISHERY and CURING-HOUSE at the *Claddagh, Galway.*

THE London Committee of the Society of Friends for the relief of Irish Distress, which originated in the subjoined address, had its attention called to the condition of the fishermen at the Claddagh, near Galway, by the following communication from W. E. Forster, accompanying his father, William Forster, Norwich, in a visit to the West of Ireland, in the autumn of 1846, for the purpose of investigating the distress in some of the remote districts :—

" From Galway I was obliged to return direct to Dublin, but before doing so I accompanied my father in his visit to the Claddagh. Two of the resident priests showed me a soup-kitchen at work on their own premises, and under most excellent management. One of their number then kindly undertook to show me the condition of the people and of their cabins. There are about 4,000 souls in this Claddagh, a clan of fishermen and their families, of peculiar and primitive habits, holding little or no intercourse with others, marrying only amongst themselves, obeying their own elected chief, whom they term their Admiral,—a brave, worthy, honest race, simple-hearted and affectionate, but now in the extreme of poverty; their numbers daily diminishing from the effect of want. The high price of provisions, the poor supply of fish, and the curious fact, that the first effect of the potato-blight is to render the herrings almost unsaleable (the people having been so accustomed to use them with potatoes, although they are now probably starved into the discovery of other modes of consumption), were causes, which united together to reduce these poor people to a fearful depth of misery. They had been accustomed to live in tolerable comfort, but they were now almost without furniture or bedding or clothes. In one small wretched hovel, in which were huddled together three families, I saw a young mother, whose rags were really no covering, much less a protection against the weather; but even here I found an instance of charity that would shame many a wealthy house. A poor blind woman was crouching on the floor, and my companion told me she was no relation to the other inmates, but that they supported her and gave her house-room out of kindness. Even the very nets and tackling of these poor fishermen, I heard were pawned, and unless they be assisted to redeem them, they will be unable to take advantage of the herring-shoals, even when they approach their coast.

" In order to ascertain the truth of this statement, I went into two or three of the largest pawn-shops, the owners of which fully confirmed it, and said they had in pledge at least a thousand pounds' worth of such property, and saw no likelihood of its being redeemed. These pawnbrokers, who were much the most prosperous-looking individuals I had seen on my journey, were, however, full of complaints against the times; there were, they said, no buyers, all were borrowers, their capital was all locked up, and soon they would be obliged to close their shops. I found that the poor peasants, even from a considerable distance were pledging their clothing for the most trifling sums, but after close inquiry, I satisfied myself that the coarse woollen and cotton garments, which it is proposed to give the more destitute, would not, if stamped, be articles which the brokers would like to receive in pawn."

By the minutes of the Committee of the 30th First Month (January) 1847, and 3d and 17th Second Month (February), a grant of 100 *l.* was made to John D'Arcy, the vicar of Galway, and Thomas R. Rush, the friar of Galway, in conjunction, to be applied to the release of as large a portion as possible of the fishing tackle now in pawn, with instructions to take needful precaution to prevent the re-pledging of the same.

The mode in which this relief was carried out, is stated in the subjoined extract from a letter from T. R. Rush, dated West Chapel, Claddagh, Galway, 8th March 1847 :—" I am desirous to state, for the information of your Committee, some of the difficulties which we have had to contend with in making the 100 *l.* productive of the largest amount of good to the fishermen, and, at the same time, guarding, as much as possible, against abuse. In the first place, I think it right to inform you, that such was the condition of the boats, and the state of disrepair into which they had fallen, that we had hardly room to hope we should have been able to effect much immediate good by so small a sum as 100 *l.* Each boat stood in need of an outfit, that would have cost from 4 *l.* to 5 *l.*, and when furnished with the appropriate rigging, the crews were reduced to such a state of want that they could not procure sea stores for a single night at sea. This was the state of things we had to contend with, and we agreed that the only effectual mode of putting boat-owners and crews afloat, was that whereby all could be brought to unite for their respective advantages.

That we might accomplish this important object, we resolved to give a small amount of aid to each boat-owner who would exert himself, and put his boat into her usual condition, and that, when she was inspected and found fit for sea, we would furnish each member of the crews with such fishing apparatus as belongs to this season, and also aid him with some provisions.

The result of this arrangement is, that up to the present date, we have sent to sea no less than 70 boats, with crews of five and six men in each boat. Thus are we progressing from day to day, furnishing some boats with that portion of the fishing gear which the fishermen use at this season, and when they come home with fish tell them they must themselves release from the pawn-offices the tackle belonging to other seasons by the produce of their own toil. We find this an excellent plan, whereas if we attempted anything like an indiscriminate releasing from the pawn-offices, there would be not only great risk of re-pledging, but a certainty of the articles released getting into hands that do not at all go out to sea. There would be no possibility of getting the parties whom we have assisted to repay the sums

given to them. But we can so manage as to spread the 100 *l.* over the entire fishing population, and oblige the parties relieved to release what they will require for other seasons; and by making them the instruments of pawn-releasing, these fishermen will set a greater value upon what they themselves release, than if we were to be the releasing parties on a large scale. We must try above all things to pronounce a censure in every way upon the system of running to the pawn-offices with those implements essential for human food and industry.

REPORT of RELIEF afforded to the Fishermen of the *Claddagh* out of the 100 *l.* contributed by the SOCIETY of FRIENDS, towards the Employment of the Fishermen at their own Calling, during the Season of Famine, from February the 21st, 1847, to March 26th, 1847.

		£.	s.	d.
No. 1.	Provisions and Fishing Gear to Patrick Griffin and crew (6 men)	–	17	6
2.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John King and crew - (6 men)	–	18	6
3.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Hart and crew - (6 men)	–	16	–
4.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Conneely and crew (6 men)	–	14	6
5.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John M'Dermott and crew (6 men)	1	–	6
6.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Martin Cubbard and crew (5 men)	–	15	4
7.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Thos. Callaghan and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
8.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Bartly Flaherty and crew (6 men)	–	15	6
9.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michael King and crew - (5 men)	–	19	6
10.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John O'Neil and crew - (5 men)	–	14	6
11.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Bartly Cubbard and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
12.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John M'Dermott and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
13.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michel Conneely and crew (6 men)	–	17	9
14.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Crean and crew (5 men)	–	16	6
15.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Thomas Cavanagh and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
16.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Thomas Calahan and crew (6 men)	–	16	–
17.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Griffin and crew (5 men)	–	15	9
18.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Luke Conneely and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
19.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michael Nolan and crew (5 men)	–	12	–
20.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Wm. O'Donnell and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
21.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Pat Conneely and crew (5 men)	–	12	–
22.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michael M'Glynn and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
23.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Mich. M'Donough and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
24.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John Ring and crew - - (6 men)	–	12	–
25.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michael Connor and crew (5 men)	–	12	–
26.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Fallon and crew - (6 men)	–	12	–
27.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Hart and crew - (5 men)	–	14	6
28.	- Ditto - - ditto - - W. Connor and crew - - (6 men)	–	12	–
29.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Peter King and crew - - (5 men)	–	12	–
30.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michael M'Glynn and crew (5 men)	–	12	–
31.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Anthony Laff and crew - (6 men)	–	12	–
32.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John King and crew - - (6 men)	–	12	–
33.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John Conneely and crew - (5 men)	–	12	–
34.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Martin M'Glynn and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
35.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John Flaherty and crew - (6 men)	–	12	–
36.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John Lydon and crew - (5 men)	–	12	–
37.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michael Flanagan and crew (5 men)	–	12	–
38.	- Ditto - - ditto - - James Connor and crew - (6 men)	–	12	–
39.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John M'Donough and crew (6 men)	–	12	–
40.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Owen Hynes and crew - (6 men)	–	12	–
41.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michael Hurney and crew (5 men)	–	12	–
42.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michael Jones and crew - (6 men)	–	14	–
43.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John Conneely and crew - (5 men)	–	12	–
44.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Pat. M'Donough and crew (6 men)	–	13	–
45.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Thomas Conmons and crew (6 men)	–	19	6
46.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Rourke and crew - (5 men)	–	17	6
47.	- Ditto - - ditto - - James Tierney and crew - (6 men)	1	7	8
48.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Connor and crew - (6 men)	–	15	–
49.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Moran and crew - (5 men)	–	16	6
50.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Thomas Clogherty and crew (5 men)	–	15	–
51.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Stephen Belton and crew - (6 men)	–	11	–
52.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Martin Wallace and crew - (6 men)	–	10	6
53.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Michael Noon and crew - (6 men)	–	16	–
54.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Bartly Murphy, singly - (1 man)	–	2	–
55.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John Claney and crew - - (6 men)	–	15	–
56.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John King and crew - - (6 men)	1	–	6
57.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John King and crew - - (4 men)	1	–	10½
58.	- Ditto - - ditto - - John Rush, singly - - - (1 man)	–	2	6
59.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Frank Conneely, singly - (1 man)	–	5	–
60.	- Ditto - - ditto - - Patrick Gutrie, singly - - (1 man)	–	6	6

	£.	s.	d.
61. Provisions and Fishing Gear to Peter Burrett, singly - - (1 man)	–	10	–
62. - Ditto - - ditto - - D. Tierney, singly - - - (1 man)	–	1	4
63. - Ditto - - ditto - - Bartly Burrett, singly - - (1 man)	–	4	8
64. - Ditto - - ditto - - Michael Burrett, singly - (1 man)	–	6	–
65. - Ditto - - ditto - - P. Callaghan and crew - (5 men)	–	6	8
66. - Ditto - - ditto - - Frank Conneely, singly - (1 man)	3	–	–
67. - Ditto - - ditto - - Martin Rush, singly - - (1 man)	–	6	6
68. - Ditto - - ditto - - Michael Henry, singly - (1 man)	–	2	–
Fishermen relieved - - 331.			
Materials for New Fishing Appliances:			
300 lbs. Flax, at 6*d.* per lb. - - - - - - - -	7	10	–
80 score bundles Linen for repair of Sails, at 3*s.* per bundle -	12	–	–
12 Spillards, 50 fathoms, at 18*s.* per Spillard - - - -	10	16	–
Flax Wheels - - - - - - - - - - -	2	12	–
£.	78	11	6½
April 8th.			
3 dozen Hard Lines - - - - - - - - -	1	15	6
Flax for the manufacture of Gurnet Lines, and Nets for the Summer and Autumn Fisheries - - - - - - - -	19	4	6
Stationery, &c. - - - - - - - - - -	–	3	5½
Clerk for copying this Account - - - - - - -	–	5	–
Total Expenditure - - - £.	100	–	–
Total Fund - - - - - £.	100	–	–

(signed) *John D'Arcy*, A. M.,
Vicar of St. Nicholas, Galway.

Thomas R. Rush,
West Chapel, Claddagh, Galway.

The Committee also received from *R. Barclay Fox*, of Falmouth, then on a Tour of Inspection, dated Galway, 27th Third Month (March) 1847, the following statement:—

"Here (Galway) I was joined this morning by James Perry and Jonathan Pim, and we have occupied the greater part of the day in visiting the soup-kitchens, of which there are five in this place, distributing about 5,000 gallons of soup daily. John D'Arcy, the Protestant clergyman, was our guide, whose exertions are as active as they are benevolent; he appears to represent the public spirit of Galway. We visited the 'West Convent,' in Claddagh; the superior, Dr. Rush, an intelligent and energetic man, has very judiciously applied the funds granted for the relief of the fishermen, and by expenditure of 70*l.* out of the 100*l.* contributed by the London Committee, 73 boats have been sent to sea: their first day's fishing produced an average of 4*l.* per boat. With the remaining 30*l.* he proposes establishing an industrial female school for the manufacture of nets. A large boat with deep-sea tackle is now the desideratum at Claddagh, as the present class of boats are not fit to venture beyond Galway Bay, and the best fishing-ground remains untouched; a curing-house in connexion with it would be most desirable, as it is rarely safe for the fishermen to attempt to run into Roundstone. The Sisters of Mercy and the nuns of the order of 'The Presentation,' give a breakfast daily to between 700 and 800 children, as well as instruction gratuitously. There is also a monastery of friars, who feed about 300 boys every morning, and give them schooling afterwards.

"In the neighbourhood of Galway nearly 2,000 men have been discharged from the public works, and the consequent sudden increase of distress almost paralyzes the Relief Committee. Employment is now the great want of the Irish poor; labour the great want of the Irish soil. Here is abundance of supply and abundance of natural demand, but how to bring these two elements together is the problem of Ireland. It is easy to point out many modes of doing this, but by no means easy to suggest one that will be adopted by those on whom the duty devolves. Meanwhile, it appears evidently our duty to give as much efficiency as possible to the existing machinery for relief, during the interval between the present stoppage of public works and the operation of the new Government Relief measure; this requires a prompt and liberal distribution of money. When that is done, I think our funds might be legitimately applied to the encouragement of productive employment."

As the pressure of starvation decreased, partly through the improved condition of the country, and partly through the more efficient provisions for public relief, the attention of the committee was turned to the encouragement on a limited scale, of industrial operations, and with this view, grants to a small extent were made in various districts for the culture of flax, and the promotion of industry amongst the women and children. The want of improved methods in fishing, and of a curing-house at Galway, which had been manifested

by previous correspondence, induced the committee to procure an experienced fishing captain from Falmouth, and to send him over to the Claddagh with an abundant supply of fishing-tackle; but in order not to awaken local prejudice and opposition, it was thought best not to send his boat there in the first instance, a precaution which subsequent events showed to have been not needless.

INSTRUCTIONS of the COMMITTEE to *Arthur Chard*, on his proceeding to *Ireland*, London, Third Month (March) 1848.

THE London Committee of the Society of Friends for the relief of distress in Ireland, had their attention turned to the condition of the fishermen on the coast of Galway, and particularly those of the Claddagh (a suburb of the town of Galway), in consequence of an application for relief made by William Edward Forster, who visited them in the early part of 1847, and who stated that they were in great wretchedness, owing to having pawned their nets and tackle, which they were wholly unable to redeem.

The committee made a grant of 100*l.* for the special object of releasing part of these implements, and the same was placed at the joint disposal of John D'Arcy, a minister of the Church of England in the town of Galway, and . . . . . the prior of a convent and head patron of a Piscatory school at the Claddagh.

We understand that this small sum, judiciously applied under the directions of these two gentlemen, was the means of effecting much good, by liberating a large quantity of fishing tackle at a very important juncture; a plentiful supply of fish, and, as a consequence, the discharge of other debts, and the liberation of a further portion of their tackle, being among the early fruits of this limited effort for their relief.

Since that time the Claddagh has been hastily visited, both by Robert Burclay Fox, of Perran, and by John Hodgkin of Tottenham; and the information which they collected on the spot has increased the feeling of interest in this somewhat peculiar, but, in general, very deserving body of men.

It appeared as the result of these visits, that distress at the Claddagh was by no means the result of the failure of the potato crop alone, but that it is of frequent occurrence with them; and there seems much reason to suppose that partly from imperfect boats and implements, partly from ignorance of the most approved modes of fishing, and partly from a want of prudence and method in their arrangements, they do not by any means derive so full or so sustained a supply from the treasures of the deep as they might; whilst absence of arrangements for curing the fresh fish prevents their having a profitable outlet at times for that which they do catch, more especially as they are not yet placed in railway communication with Dublin.

It is with this view of making a beginning, on a small scale, for the removal of some of these disadvantages by the introduction of a better system, that the London Committee have retained the services of Arthur Chard.

And whilst they must depend mainly upon his skill, discretion and perseverance for the effecting of this important object, they think it right to give him some hints as to his course of procedure.

In the first place, he ought to be fully aware that the object is purely philanthropic. The Committee have no sectarian and no commercial end in view whatever.

They desire only to assist their suffering fellow-men to help themselves.

This A. C. can state in the most explicit manner if questioned; but the most effectual manner of showing it will be by kindness to all, by the absence of selfishness, and by watchfulness, not to hurt the religious or national feelings of any; and should he have to encounter local prejudices and superstitions, they must be met in the gentlest manner, yielding as far as he can conscientiously and consistently with the objects of his mission.

Joshua William Strangman, of Waterford, has had great experience in dealing with the prejudices and peculiar habits of some of the Irish fishermen, though in a different locality; partly by introducing in the fishing-grounds near Waterford, improved methods of fishing, with larger vessels and better tackle, and partly by assisting the wretchedly poor fishermen at Ring, in the neighbourhood of Dungarvan, with small loans of money.

Arthur Chard will therefore proceed first to Waterford, and see J. W. Strangman, and converse freely with him on the subject, and make notes of the hints which he may receive from him as to the best mode of procedure.

It may be well also to confer with the captain and men in his employ, and learn from them the difficulties which they have had to encounter in introducing improvements, and the course which they took in surmounting them.

A. Chard will then proceed to Limerick. A letter of introduction to John Abel, of that city, accompanies this. He will confer with him and any other friends there to whom he may be introduced; and it is probable that one or more of their number will either go with him to Galway, or meet him there.

It will be better that A. Chard should not enter upon his duties at the Claddagh until the plan of operation is in some degree settled between the friend from Limerick, and the persons of authority and influence in the Claddagh; viz. the prior of the convent, John D'Arcy, and the Mayor and Admiral of the Claddagh. In the deliberations and negotiations for this purpose, A. C. will, in all probability, have to take a part, in order to give the necessary explanations.

It is extremely important that the fishermen should know that A. C. is not a competitor come amongst them but a helper, and that he and his tackle are placed for this purpose at the dsposal of the Admiral and such of his comrades as shall be selected to take part in the operations.

It will pretty soon be seen whether A. C.'s boat will be wanted, and if it is, advice should be sent to Perran to bring her round without delay.

This may be done without waiting to communicate with London, if A. C. and the friend from Limerick are unitedly of the judgment that she is wanted.

It is suggested that some of the Claddagh men should always be employed in using the nets and (if she be brought round) in working the boat, and that they should receive a full proportion of the fish caught as wages; the rest going either to the Admiral or to be otherwise applied for the benefit of the Claddagh, as may be determined upon by A. C. and the friend from Limerick.

Neither A. C. nor any of his Cornishmen to fish on their own account, or to have any benefit beyond the terms agreed upon.

The Cornish crew to be confined to steady and sober men, who may expect some extra pay from Friends' Relief Committee, in case of good conduct.

Great care to be observed by them, as well as A. C., to avoid exciting the jealousies of the Claddagh men.

A. C. to teach the Claddagh fishermen the use of such fishing tackle as may be new to them, and to employ the trawl nets, &c., and the boat (if sent) in whatever way be most serviceable to them.

Let the wives and daughters of the fishermen make ground-seams, trammels, and other nets, and employ some men to make good lobster-pots.

Induce the men to tie the lobsters, instead of pegging them.

To confer with the Mayor and Admiral, with the assistance of the friend from Limerick, &c., as to whether it would be desirable to establish a curing-house.

And, if it appears to be so, to obtain an estimate and ascertain on what terms a suitable building could be obtained and fitted up.

But not to begin this without first corresponding with London.

If adopted, to set it going and give all needful instructions.

To write a detailed report twice a week of all proceedings to John Hodgkin, Tottenham, London.

On his arrival at Galway, accompanied by a deputation from the Friends' Relief Committee, at Limerick, a plan of operation was formed, in concert with the following gentlemen:—John D'Arcy, Vicar of Galway; T. R. Rush, Prior of the Convent, Head of Piscatorial School; G. Kough, the Government Guardian of the Union; Robert Fisher, Manager of the Provincial Bank; Lachlan M'Lachlan, a Roman Catholic merchant of Galway, who formed themselves into a committee of management.

Pending the arrival of his nets, Arthur Chard was engaged in teaching the boys of the Piscatory school the use of the compass and other elementary nautical matters, and in interesting them and the fishermen about improvements.

As a specimen of the difficulty he had to contend with, on the arrival of his nets, an extract from one of his letters is subjoined, and it also strongly shows the want of a curing-house.

"Wednesday, 19th.—The weather still continues very rough; the boats not able to go to sea. The fishermen being collected in groups along the quay, I took the opportunity of speaking to them respecting the use of my nets, but the conversation was not very encouraging. One very decent dressed man addressed me in the following manner:—'Is it stopping to fish, you are, sir; because, if you are, I might as well tell you it, that you will not fish here, in this bay, with your nets and trawls; and what is worse than trawls?' I answered, 'My good man, it is not my intention to do anything against your will; all I am sent to do, is to endeavour to put something in your way, instead of taking anything from you; it is my wish, and that of the committee that sent me, that you should have the benefit of all my nets and likewise my labour, and that of my vessel and men, and to use it in such manner and in such places as you think proper.' But I could not work any good on them; their answer was, 'We do not want your nets; they may do good to a five or six, but what is all the rest to do? we will not have it in any shape; we know how to kill fish with the gear we have, and that is such as every man shall have a chance, and we will have nothing else.' I said, 'Surely you can have no objection to any net-fishing out in deep sea?'—'No, you may trawl all the way to America, if you like, but we know that we could kill more fish before the trawls came here than we can now.' And much more to the same effect; but I thought it best not to press the matter, so I dropped the conversation.

"From what I can learn from other fishermen, not directly connected with the Claddagh, that they are sworn together (with but few exceptions) not to use or let be used any other nets but such as they think proper; under these circumstances, I do not think it would be advisable to press the using of the nets at present.

"I have not seen Mr. Rush or the Admiral since the above conversation, but I shall endeavour to do so, but he is so much engaged about this time that it is difficult to see him.

"It appears to me as if the men thought, on my first arrival, that I was to give them some direct relief, such as new tackling or meal, or something of that sort, as all of them soon began to make known their wants, though they will not endeavour to relieve these wants by the use of my nets.

"There are some of the men would be glad of the opportunity of the use of the nets, but I think they are intimidated by the great body of the Claddagh.

"Thursday 20th and Friday 21st being great holidays, there is not much doing, but the boats went out on Thursday morning.

"Saturday 22d.—The boats came in this morning with large quantities of gurnets and black pollock, from 500 to 1,000, selling at from 3*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* per hundred; the pollock at 3*s.* 6*d.* per dozen; some of the boats that came in this evening having 1,500, selling them very cheap.

"In stating these facts in my Report as they occurred, I hope the committee will not object to my passing a few remarks on them.

"In the first place, sometime since, a gentleman came to Galway with trawl boats and fishing tackle of every description, and made great promises as to what he was going to do. He was going to build curing establishments, and make the fortunes of the whole Claddagh; he stopped here imposing on the poor men, and likewise several gentlemen, for about six months, and then left them in a much worse state than he found them.

"And, again, as the fishermen state, if they had a better market, or some place to sell the fish, they would embrace every opportunity of improving the methods of killing the fish; but at the present state of the markets, they can kill enough to supply them, and often more than the market will take while fresh.

"Respecting the person that told me of the Claddagh men being sworn not to let any nets be used, it is not unlikely but he himself has a prejudice against the Claddagh.

"And as to their objection of receiving a partial benefit, I think we must acknowledge it is not only natural, but charitable, on their part, to consider the benefit of the whole family, as we may term them; and we can consider them nothing else, when we recollect there are from 5,000 to 6,000 people (families included) bound together by the nearest ties of relationship, for it is of rare occurence for either male or female to marry out of the Claddagh; so I say, we ought not to be suprised at the unanimity among them, but still where there is such a large body of people, there are sure to be some difference of opinion.

"So, in connecting these and many other prejudices and superstitions which they have, we must expect to have considerable opposition.

"But I do not hear one dissenting voice on the building of a curing and salt establishment. I have seen Mr. Rush to-day; he tells me not to be discouraged; as soon as the men come to see it is for a general benefit, they will all join as one man in carrying out the object, and there is no danger whatever in using the nets while I have the sanction of the Admiral and Committee, but you must not force them to use them; I consider we are getting on very well; we must take time to overcome their jealousies and superstitions.

"So, gentlemen, you will see the difficulties I have to contend with; although I have not yet used my nets, I am very anxious of doing so, as I am sure you must think it time I should be making use of them.

"Hoping my next will be a more favourable report,

"I remain your very humble obedient Servant,
(signed) "*A. Chard.*"

The Committee before named being willing to establish and conduct a curing-house on their own responsibility, on receiving aid from this Committee, grants, amounting to 500*l.*, were made in the Summer and Autumn of 1848.

On the 14th October the Vicar of Galway, on behalf of the Committee, writes: "I have, with very great pleasure to report that our curing-house is complete; that it has been pronounced by a very competent judge, whom some business brought here, one of the newest and best arranged things that he has seen anywhere; and that we have actually commenced curing.

"I have further to report, and I am sure it will give you as much pleasure as it afforded us, that when the Claddagh women came with their fish, found it honestly counted and promptly paid for, they expressed their most unfeigned surprise, and exclaimed they would no longer allow the hucksters to cheat them, but come with their fish to the curing-house. All this is at least cheering, and not to be despised in an arduous undertaking, as no question ours is."

Again, the same gentleman writes on the 25th April 1849:

"I may say we have much reason to be thankful for the measure of success with which our efforts have been blessed; our trade is progressing every day; our cured fish is in repute; the business we are doing is a safe business and remunerative as far as it goes, and we are now quite satisfied that if we had a good boat, able to put out to the fishing-ground beyond Arran, we not only could introduce all the new methods, but would be applauded for doing so. The Claddagh Piscatorial School, too, affords us a means, when we shall be in a position to avail ourselves of it, for affording practical instruction to the rising generation."

So far, this Committee considers the results, upon a small scale, as satisfactory and encouraging; and they feel that the time has come when some further pecuniary assistance, both to the curing-house and also in aiding the fishermen to obtain boats of larger construction, suited to fishing beyond the limits of the bay, would be very desirable.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,
John Hodgkin.

Appendix N.

REPORT of *C. G. Otway, Esq.*, on the Castlebar and Westport Unions.

Castlebar and Westport Unions.

(No. 14823/48.)

Gentlemen, Donegal, 18 March 1848.

In accordance with the instructions contained in your letter of the 25th ultimo, received by me on the 27th, I have to state, that I arrived in Castlebar on Saturday the 4th instant, and that I was occupied in attending meetings of the Board of Vice-Guardians at Castlebar and Westport, and in making inquiries and examining witnesses in reference to the state of these Unions, until the 13th instant.

The evidence I took I now forward for your information, together with the following Report, containing the result of the impressions left on my mind, from my own observations, and from the general inquiries which I made from numerous and different parties.

On my arrival at the Castlebar Workhouse, on the 4th instant, the first circumstance that struck me was the appearance of a large crowd of persons that had congregated round the door; on the skirts of the crowd were a number of ill-clad and ill-fed looking persons, bearing on their bodies the marks of their destitution, but such were comparatively few in number, and more than two-thirds of the crowd was composed of well-clad and well-fed looking people, wholly dissimilar from any crowd I ever saw round a Workhouse door before seeking for relief. My first impression was, that there was some meeting as to complaints against the valuation, and that the farmer-class had come to make objections, and I remonstrated with the crowd, as to keeping the poor, weak, hungry-looking creatures, that wanted to get relief, so far outside that they could not get to the door; when I was informed, by numerous voices, that they wanted to get the meal for themselves. Some of them almost appeared ashamed when I expressed a reproachful surprise.

On entering the Board-room, I found a number of gentlemen, some advocating the claims of one set of persons for relief, and contending against the claims of others, and *vice versâ*. The Relieving Officers appealed to, every moment, to account why this person was on and that person off the lists, and hunting from book to book to look for information, until they became utterly confounded, and, to complete the confusion, the parties themselves, on being brought up to be examined, in most cases, by their contradictory and evasive replies, completely destroyed any little insight into the real state of their cases that had previously been apparently arrived at: from half-past twelve to near six o'clock, the time of the Guardians was, I might say, almost exclusively thus taken up, and during the whole time I was there I did not feel that I could have rightly adjudicated on more than five or six of the numerous cases I heard argued, so contradictory were the statements and so unsatisfactory was the information afforded by the Relieving Officers; and in those cases that I did form a decided opinion, I formed it more from the appearance of the countenances of the parties than from anything I heard in the debate.

One case made a strong impression on my mind: a Mr. Dugeon, whom I afterwards examined [*see* Evidence], brought forward one of the most miserable-looking men I ever beheld to get him put on the list for relief, stating that he had been refused relief, or to be put on the book by the Relieving Officer. The Vice-Guardians at once expressed their surprise that the Relieving Officer had not taken his application, and got him relief, and there was a long inquiry as to why he had not been put on the list for relief, when it was found that he had been on the list, and had been ordered relief; but that, owing to some mistake of the Overseer, the man had got no relief for the previous week: the reason he did not get relief, as far as I could judge, was, that his name had been omitted in the list given by the Relieving Officer to the contractor and Overseer for bread, and caused, it was supposed, by the confusion consequent on the change of the relief given to the able-bodied from meal to rye-bread; the man was evidently in the greatest distress, and wholly unfit to work, or to be classed as able-bodied. During the investigation of this matter, the poor man (Pat. Kilcoyne) cried out, that it was too bad that Peggy should be on the list, from the same village, with her 17 acres and more of land, her two cows and horses: I took a note of this, and I requested Captain Farren to have the Relieving Officer specially sent to look for Peggy Filben, and to see if what the man (Kilcoyne) had said was true. Waters, the Relieving Officer, was sent, and the statement of the man was found to be true; the woman he alluded to was receiving by the name of M'Namara, and she held 11A. 2R. of land, paid a rent of 20*l.* 0*s.* 4*d.*, and had two cows and a horse, by her own admission.

After the meeting of the Board of Guardians, in going to my hotel, I found numbers of the most wretched looking persons prowling through the town, not only the regular professional beggars, who here, in the midst of such extensive relief, and in open defiance of the Vagrant Act, ply their trade and expose their sores at the corner of every lane, and the turn of every road, and importune the passers-by with a mixture of prayers, cajolery and blasphemy; but strange, vacant-looking, spectre-like men, women and children, wandering up and down, and appearing as if not to know what they had to do, whence they came, or whither they were to go.

In the rural portions of the Unions that I passed through, I met comparatively few beggars, and the looks of the people, and especially of the children, appeared to me, on the whole, satisfactory, and infinitely better than at the same time last year. More land also

appeared to be turned up, and more extensive preparations for cropping than at the same time of the season last year.

It is extremely difficult to form anything like a satisfactory opinion as to the real extent of destitution; as compared to the whole amount of the population, varying so much in different localities, and liable to so much exaggeration, it would be almost impossible to form a correct estimate of its extent without an accurate and dispassionate local knowledge; that I was, of course, not only unable to obtain myself, but to find in the possession of any person I met with along the coast; from the Killeries to beyond Achill, in the Union of Westport, the extent of destitution is very great, amounting in some cases to more than half of the population; and in others, as in the islands of Innisturk, Clare Island and Achill, to two-thirds of the population; but, taking the Unions of Castlebar and Westport as a whole, the impression on my mind is, that an estimate, assuming not more than one-fourth of the population (taking the population at the numbers as given in the Census of 1841), as requiring relief, would not be too low in the Union of Westport, and that it would be too high in the Union of Castlebar; and I have not a doubt but that the amount of relief given in the Unions of both Westport and Castlebar, especially in Castlebar, is more than sufficient to meet the amount of destitution, if properly distributed, and much more than sufficient, if relief was really limited to destitute persons not occupying more than a cabin, and a quarter of an acre of land. According to the returns furnished to me by the Clerks of Westport and Castlebar, the number of persons receiving out-door relief in the Union of Westport was 21,202 (the Relieving Officers' books not being made up, he stated as a reason why he could not tell me the numbers under section 1 and section 2 of the Act, or the numbers chargeable to each Electoral Division), and the numbers of persons receiving in-door relief, 988, making a total number of persons receiving relief under the Poor Law Acts of 22,190, exclusive of 7,766 children receiving rations from the British Association, the population of the Union, according to the Census of 1841, being 77,952.

The number of persons receiving out-door relief in Castlebar Union, under the first section of the Act, 9,421, under the second section 8,306, making a total of the number of persons receiving out-door relief of 17,727, besides 809 relieved in the Workhouse, making a total number of persons as receiving relief under the Poor Law in the Union of Castlebar of 18,536, exclusive of about 5,000 children receiving rations from the British Association, the population of the Union according to the Census of 1841 being 61,063.

During the whole of my inquiries and conversations with numbers of men, of all sorts and conditions, I never, that I recollect, met one, even amongst those who held the most discouraging views as to the extent of destitution, that did not acknowledge that the amount of relief given was sufficient to meet the amount of destitution, if its distribution was solely confined to the proper parties.

The abuses in the distribution of relief arise, I believe, principally in the relief afforded to the able-bodied under the second section of the Act; and the number of persons receiving relief under this section, and that are not fit objects for relief, and have acquired it by deception and fraud, are beyond comparison greater than the numbers who have received relief under the first section, and who are not fit objects to receive it; the cases of abuses of this kind, under the relief afforded by the first section, are comparatively, in my opinion, very few.

The number of cases of fit objects for relief not receiving it, I consider, on the whole, comparatively few, and chiefly confined to the town portions of Electoral Divisions; but in the Castlebar Electoral Division I could not avoid coming to the conclusion, that very many of the poor entitled to and fit objects to receive relief did not get it, and that very many who got it were not fit objects to receive it, and did not want it; and that thus much of the good intended to have been administered by the law had been confused to ill.

The chief cause of the abuses I have alluded to lies in the low moral state of the population of this unfortunate country, extending from the highest to the lowest class (the exceptions prove the rule): now, with a population such as this to deal with, one portion struggling to obtain that which they were not entitled to receive, and the other portion struggling to withhold that which they should give, how are you to deal? Out-door relief, at all times and in all countries difficult to administer safely, and requiring so many checks to counteract its tendency to abuse, is here left not only to contend against the abuses almost inherent in itself in the best state of society in which it is administered, but to contend against a deep-rooted and almost universal system of deception on the one side, and connivance on the other, and left, not only without the aid of the local administrators, which in other places it obtains, but dependent for the carrying out of its most important details on a set of subordinate officers that have increased and caused the very abuses that they were appointed to prevent; and when I consider that in addition to all this, that it has come after and almost taken up the most extensive and loose system of out-door relief that the world ever saw, and has been made the inheritor of its abuses, without its excuses for abuse, or the same means of counteracting them, can I wonder at finding abuses, and a strong feeling against the operations of the law? need I ask, Could any three Guardians, or three Inspecting Officers, have successfully met such a difficulty as this? three Guardians or three Inspecting Officers, successfully, and without great abuses, to have administered out-door relief to a total of 87,000 in the Unions of Castlebar, Westport and Ballinrobe, under such circumstances? impossible! But, gentlemen, I think the abuses might have been lessened, are being lessened, and may still further be lessened. It appears to me that the management of three such Unions, and under the circumstances I have alluded to, was and is too much for any three Guardians to attend to: not only had they to meet the current difficulties of the Unions,

Unions, but they had to unravel the tangled web which their predecessors had bequeathed to them; to contend not only against empty stomachs and an empty purse, but also a large amount of accumulated debt.

I believe the Vice-Guardians and the Inspectors exerted themselves as much as men could; that neither exertion of mind or body was spared by them, or any of them; but I believe it was not in the power of any three men to attend as Vice-Guardians to the necessary administrative duties of three such Unions, at such a time, and with such a machinery at their disposal, and also to see that the details were worked up as much as they might otherwise have been; and I therefore recommend that there should be two Vice-Guardians resident in each of the Unions of Castlebar and Westport, whose duty it will be solely to attend to the affairs of these Unions.

There appears to me to have been a want of due previous preparation for the proper administration of relief under the second section of the Act, and then, when the rush came, consequent on the order, it was found impossible to prepare and put in timely execution the necessary and obvious checks. The Vice-Guardians and Inspectors are now directing their attention to the means of checking the abuses that arose, and in a great degree doing it successfully. Hitherto, the Guardians appear to have been left almost entirely at the mercy of the Overseers, as far as the labour-test for the able-bodied was concerned—a class of persons, above all others, requiring strict checks—as, by the arrangements made, such Overseers could return any persons on their lists as having entitled themselves to receive relief by performing a task which may never have been executed: there was no check upon such officers to show that their returns were not false: a general Overseer should have measured weekly the amount of work performed by the men under each Overseer in charge of a party, certified the amount performed, and if the Overseer in charge had allowed food to be given beyond the amount of work done, the value of the food thus improperly given should have been stopped from his salary, and especial care should have been taken that no local Overseer should have had charge of parties that from their position and numbers he could not have overseen. Steps are now being taken, as I have already stated, to remedy these evils, and general Overseers have been appointed, and the duties of the local Overseers, as well as of the Relieving Officers, in many cases reduced, and arrangements have been lately made in the Castlebar and Breafy Electoral Divisions to give the able-bodied daily rations of bread, in place of meal, once a week, as heretofore given, and arrangements are being made to carry this out through the entire Union.

The labour-test, as applied to the able-bodied in the Unions of Castlebar and Westport, has been, up to the present, a failure, and in many instances, I believe, the most glaring cases of abuse have occurred.

In reference to the relief administered to the impotent poor, under the first section of the Act, the system that has been established for distributing relief, appears unsound, inasmuch as it throws on the Relieving Officers so much in the particular of being obliged to make out and furnish to the Contractor or Distributor an almost exact duplicate of his application and report-book each week, and also to attend personally at the distribution, that it must have been impossible, for even the best of them, under the pressure, to have performed the other important duties of their office satisfactorily; and the consequence has been, that the Relieving Officers neither acted as a sufficient check on the Contractor, nor kept their books, or made the inquiries they ought to have made, and the instructions of the Vice-Guardians and Inspectors have not been acted on.

I also consider it absolutely necessary that some system of checking the Contractor's or Distributor's account, beyond the mere verification of it by the Relieving Officer, and that the Distributor or Contractor should have to produce with his account some vouchers, that should be compared with the account by the Guardians for the amount of meal distributed in each case.

I also consider it necessary that the greatest care should be used in seeing that the Distributor or Contractor and the Relieving Officer were wholly unconnected, and that the Relieving Officers should have nothing whatever to say as to the recommendation or influence of the appointment of such persons; and that every means, and every inducement, by raising the salaries of those Relieving Officers who properly perform their duties, should be taken, and held out, in order to try and get a better and more eligible class of men to act as Relieving Officers. The arrangements the Vice-Guardians put in operation in reference to the supply of meal by Contractors and Distributors for out door-relief were, as they informed me, that the Relieving Officer should tot up his application and report-book inthe Board-room, to find out the amount of meal authorized by the Guardians to be issued, as shown by his book. The Guardians then filled an order in the order-book for that amount of meal on the Contractor, which was signed by the Chairman and Clerk; the Relieving Officer was then to extract, on a separate list, from his application and report-book, the names of the parties to get relief, with the amount they were to receive, with a corresponding number in the application and report-book, which list he was to lodge with the Contractor. The Relieving Officer was then to furnish the head of the family with a ticket, on which was to be written the name of the head of the family, the number of pounds of meal he or she was to get, and with a number on it to correspond with the number in the list taken from the application-book; the recipient was then to present that ticket to the Contractor, in the presence of the Relieving Officer, whose duty it was to be present and to see that the party was fairly served according to the list; the tickets were not to be issued in the store, and were not retained by the Contractors as vouchers for the issue.

The means adopted by the Guardians to see that the amount of meal according to their

order was duly distributed, was, that when the Contractor sent in his bill, the Relieving Officer was obliged to sign it, and certify that it was correct, and as to whether the whole amount of the order had been distributed, or whether a balance remained; if more than was specified in the order had been distributed, the Relieving Officer was to ask for a supplemental order, to make the amount up to the Contractor.

As to the collection of the rates, the evidence on this subject will point out to the Commissioners how very unsatisfactory has been the progress of the collection, except, perhaps, in the case of Sir R. A. O'Donnel's district; that persons of the highest station, and having the largest properties, owe the largest portion of the rate uncollected; and not only have such parties held back at such a crisis from paying their rates, but they have been comparatively leniently dealt with, and allowed time by the Collectors, and this while the poorer and middle classes have in many instances paid their rates, and have had summary legal proceedings taken against them to compel them so to do.

I consider it absolutely necessary, if the present, or any system of Poor Laws is to be maintained, and the funds, or any part of the funds, to be raised from local taxation, that such persons should be made to pay, and an end put to such a disgraceful state of things.

I think that a deep and dangerous feeling of discontent has arisen amongst the middle and poorer class of rate-payers, especially those living in the towns, against the injustice of their being made to pay their rates, while noblemen, landlords of extensive districts, and holders of large quantities of land, are not made to pay; and this class labours under great excitement at the contemplation of the rates on their little properties being rendered more frequent and heavier, owing to the large arrear of other parties being left from rate to rate uncollected.

I regret to have to state, that the evidence of the Collectors themselves, and the documents on this subject, go to prove that due diligence has not been used to collect all the collectable portion of the rates, and that what is due, is not due by parties who, from absolute want of means, are unable to pay: the evidence of all the Collectors goes to show, that the amount of rate uncollectable, or likely to be uncollected, owing to the destitution of the parties rated, is comparatively small. In the Westport Union the Clerk furnished me with the paper marked , which shows, that out of a rate of 8,386 *l.* odd, the collecting books having been given out on the 17th of last November, only 3,089 *l.* has been as yet collected, and that the balance uncollected is 5,297 *l.*; that of this balance 3,612 *l.*, is due by immediate lessors, and only 1,684 *l.* due by occupiers; and Mr. Louden, in his evidence, swears, that the amount of rate he has collected, has been almost all paid by occupiers, and that the amount paid by immediate lessors has been extremely small.

In the Union of Castlebar, the last rate, inclusive of the arrears, amounted to 9,947 *l.* (the collecting books for which rate were signed in October last), and up to the 2d instant, as per a statement furnished to me by the Clerk of the Union, only 2,331 *l.* 1 *s.* 7¼ *d.* had been collected, as shown by the Collectors' books. The lists furnished to the Commissioners by the Vice-Guardians will show the parties by whom the rate is due.

Mr. Maley, in his evidence, states: "The greater portion of the rate now due, is due by parties who are able to pay, and that the amount that has been paid has not been paid by the classes who are able to pay."

"I know that there are many who could pay their rates out of savings of money and other produce, who have not paid:" and again, "The immediate lessors rated for occupiers at and under 4 *l.*, have not paid; as well as I recollect, the greater portion of the rate now to be collected is due from immediate lessors:" and again, "In the rural part of the district there is manifested a much greater disinclination to pay on the part of the best-off of the occupiers than on the part of those who are comparatively poor."

Mr. Maley, in his evidence, states: "The immediate lessors appear to think there is no law to compel them to pay for the occupiers of land leased, though the lessees are not in existence, and though all the present occupiers pay their rent."

In reference to this, I would wish to remark, that it was formerly the practice in many parts of Ireland, and especially Mayo, to set large portions of land on long leases to certain joint parties for electioneering and other reasons; these parties, in the process of time, let to several under-tenants, and these tenants, and those who succeeded, them did the same, until, in fact, the tenure and holding of the original leases was lost in the large amount of sub-divisions that subsequently ensued, and the parties in occupation became really the tenants to the original lessor, and paid rent to him; and I do not believe that the plea of the old lease would, in a court of law, on an appeal from the rate, save the head landlord from being considered as the immediate lessor of such parties, when the exact position in which they stood towards him was shown, and when it was proved that he took rent from them, and so treated them as individual tenants, and that by his acts he constituted a tenantry; and this is, I think, the real reason, in many instances, why appeals have not been made against the rates. The excuse urged last year, that it was not known that there was an appeal, cannot well be urged now.

That there are many errors in the rate-books I make no doubt, and the sooner a revision takes place the better; but there is not, in my mind, grounds for the objections to so large an extent of the immediate lessors to pay their rates. That an immediate lessor may, in a number of cases, be wrongly rated, I can suppose; but that they should be altogether wrongly rated, or to the extent of 600 *l.* or 700 *l.*, as I see returned as due by one immediate lessor, I do not believe; at all events, as they are rated, and did not appeal in proper time, I cannot but think that every sense of honour and justice should urge them to pay their rates, especially when the state of the country, and the large amount of public and private funds

that

that has been expended to save the lives of their tenants, is considered. A poor man that had not appealed in the proper way, and at the proper time, would be made to pay the rate he was rated for at a Petty Sessions, where some of these very immediate lessors sit, and the knowledge of this fact in the country is productive of great discontent, and impedes the collection of the rates.

I forward herewith some Forms which Captain Farren furnished me with, as lately issued to the Relieving Officers and Overseers at Castlebar; and I cannot conclude this Report without expressing the high sense I entertain of the co-operation and assistance I received during the inquiry from Captain Farren and Mr. Lynch, and also from the Vice-Guardians: the sole object of all these gentlemen appeared to be to let me see how matters really stood, and to find out any abuses that existed, in order that proper remedies should be applied.

I have, &c.

The Poor Law Commissioners. (signed) *C. G. Otway.*

EVIDENCE referred to in the foregoing Report.

ENCLOSURES.

Copies of Instructions to Relieving Officers, Overseers in charge of Working Parties, General Overseer, and Contractors for Supply of Provisions connected with the Employment and Rationing of Destitute Persons receiving out-door Relief.

Instructions to Relieving Officers.

The Relieving Officers, on having their application books revised by the Vice-Guardians, and the amount of the provision sanctioned for the relief of each impotent pauper, will issue orders for such amount as is authorized, upon the Storekeeper or Contractor of the division, according to Form supplied in book, marked "Impotent Poor," (Form A.) Relieving Officers. Form A.

When any able-bodied pauper whose name has been approved of makes application, he is to be furnished with an order on the Overseer in charge of the working party, according to Form marked "Able-bodied." Form B.

In cases of extreme urgency the Relieving Officer may issue an order for temporary relief on the Storekeeper or Contractor, marking all such orders "Special:" care is to be taken in issuing such orders, and in issuing all orders on the Storekeepers or Contractors, that the amount is written in full, as well as in numbers. At the end of the week the books will be again revised, and the expenditure book examined, and any improvident and unauthorized distribution of food will be charged to the Relieving Officer.

Any person who has been directed by the Vice-Guardians to be offered the Workhouse, is, on application to the Relieving Officer, to be furnished by him with a ticket of admission for himself and family; the number of the family to be marked on the ticket.

Any able-bodied pauper who has been twice reported to the Relieving Officer for being late at the work, is to receive a ticket of admission for himself and family to the Workhouse.

By order,

Patrick Flinn, Clerk of the Union.

Instructions to Overseers in charge of Working Parties.

After the Vice-Guardians have revised the application books furnished by Relieving Officers, each Overseer will be furnished by the Relieving Officer with a list containing the names and number in application book of each able-bodied pauper, who is to render a task of work in consideration of the relief afforded him.—(Form F.) Overseers. Form F.

This list will also contain the age of each able-bodied pauper, and the quantity of provision he will be entitled to receive, and columns for "class" and "task to be executed." The two latter will be filled up by the General Overseer.

The Overseer will be directed by the General Overseer to the station when it is intended that the working party which he is to take charge of shall be employed. The Relieving Officer will send each able-bodied person to such station, with an order directing the Overseer to set him to work, and on completion of the task allotted to him to issue to him an order on the Storekeeper of such division for so much provision as he shall be entitled to by order of the Vice-Guardians—such quantity to be ascertained by reference to the list furnished by the Relieving Officer. The quantity and nature of the work will be pointed out by the General Overseer. Form B. Form C.

In no case, except sickness, is the Overseer to issue an order for provision, unless the person employed has completed his work to his satisfaction, and performed the entire task allotted to him. Each order delivered to the Overseer is to be filed and laid before the

Vice-Guardians at the end of the week, as an authority for the amount of food ordered by him; and in any case where it appears to the Vice-Guardians that the Overseer has issued an order for an amount of provision, the task not being fully completed, the value will be deducted from such Overseer's salary.

The hours of working will be from eight A.M. until five P.M., allowing one hour in the day for meals, viz., from nine to half-past nine A.M., and from half-past twelve to one P.M.

Any labourer who comes late to the work, or quits it before the hours named, is to be reported to the Relieving Officer, and upon a second offence of a like nature, he will receive a provisional order for the admission of himself and his family to the Workhouse.

In the event of the sickness of a labourer, one of his family must produce a certificate from a medical practitioner or the clergyman of the parish, stating the man is unable to attend at the work from that cause; and should it be a bad case, the certificate should state the number of days the man will probably be prevented from working; if it is not so stated, the certificate must be renewed daily, otherwise the provision order will not be given by the Overseer, and in any case the certificate cannot hold good beyond the termination of the week in which it is given. A certificate from the Relieving Officer, if the facts of the case have been ascertained by him, will also be sufficient to authorize the Overseer to issue the provision order; the same rule with respect to renewal, &c., applies to the Relieving Officer's certificate. In these instances, the provision order (Form C.), will be altered thus:—the words "completed his task" will be struck out, and the words "been certified sick" inserted. The sick certificate must be produced by the Overseer as a voucher to the provision order.

Form D. (Form D) shows the form in which the labour book is to be kept.

Form E. (Form E)—the form of weekly return to be handed into the Board of Guardians.

By order,

Patrick Flinn, Clerk of the Union.

Instructions to Storekeepers or Contractors.

Storekeepers or Contractors. Form G. Form H. Each Storekeeper will be supplied with a certain amount of provisions to be placed in the depôt under his charge. Each Storekeeper or Contractor will receive from the Relieving Officer weekly, immediately after the board-day, two lists, one to contain the names of the able-bodied paupers to receive rations daily upon production of the order from the Overseer in charge of the working party, and the other to contain the names of the other classes to receive a weekly allowance of provision. Each list will show the number in application book and name, and the quantity of provision to be issued in each case.

Form A. The Relieving Officer will issue orders upon the Storekeeper or Contractor for the amount of food to be issued to each person relieved under the first section of the Act, for a week's allowance; such orders are to be filed and produced, as well as the list received from the Relieving Officer, as vouchers for the amount issued on orders of the Relieving Officers, to account for the items returned in the expenditure book to be kept by him.

Form C. The Storekeepers or Contractors are to receive and file separately all orders from the Overseers for provisions to be issued to the able-bodied, and to produce them, as well as the list received from the Relieving Officer, as vouchers for the amount entered in the expenditure book.

The expenditure book and orders from the Relieving Officers for the supply of persons relieved under the first section of the Act, to be kept separately from the expenditure book, and orders from the Overseers for the supply of the able-bodied. At the end of the week both books and both sets of vouchers will be produced and balanced by the Clerk of the Union, and submitted to the Guardians; and any deficiency appearing in either, or any amount distributed, and not substantiated by vouchers, will be deducted from the salary of the Storekeepers or bills of the Contractors, as the case may be.

If any orders for food are issued by Relieving Officers marked "Special," such are to be separately arranged and entered.

Form of Contractor's bill annexed (Form I.).

By order,

Patrick Flinn, Clerk of the Union.

Directions to General Overseers.

General Overseer. The General Overseer is to point out to the Overseer in charge of the station at which the working party are to be employed; he is also to point out the nature of the work to be done, the manner in which it is to be performed, to classify the labourers, and state the task each is to execute, and to name the hours at which roll is to be called. He is to visit each station once a week, for the purpose of ascertaining the total amount of work done, and its value, and to certify the same to the Vice-Guardians on their day of meeting. He is to pay particular attention to the conduct of the persons employed, and to report any irregularity.

It is supposed that stone-breaking by task-work will be the best mode of employing the able-bodied—portion to be employed in quarrying, portion in breaking, and portion in removing.

removing. It is calculated that each labourer should quarry boxes of nine cubic feet daily. With regard to the breakers, they will be divided into three classes: Class 1, the most able, will break two boxes of stone daily; Class 2. the next in degree, one-and-a-half boxes; and Class 3, the weakest, one box daily.

In inclement weather, when work cannot be done, roll will be called at nine, twelve, one and four.

The hours of working will be from eight A.M., until five P.M., allowing one hour for meals; viz., from nine to half-past nine, A.M., and from half-past twelve to one, P.M.

By order,

Patrick Flinn, Clerk of the Union.

(FORM A.)

IMPOTENT POOR.
CASTLEBAR UNION.

No.___ _____Electoral Division.
_____day of_____1848.
Name_____
No. in Applicant Book_____
No. in family_____
_____pounds of_____
To_____Initialed.
Contractor.

IMPOTENT POOR.
CASTLEBAR UNION.

No. _____ _____Electoral Division.
_____day of_____1848.
Deliver to_____
No. in Application Book_____
_____pounds of_____
Allowed by Vice-Guardians for his support, for week ending_____day of_____1848.
_____Relieving Officer.
To_____
Contractor.

(FORM B.)

ABLE-BODIED.
CASTLEBAR UNION.

No.____ _____Electoral Division.
_____day of_____1848.
Name_____
No. in Applicant Book_____
No. of working party_____
Initialed.

ABLE-BODIED POOR.
CASTLEBAR UNION.

No._____ _____Electoral Division.
_____day of _____1848.
Set the Bearer_____
No. in Application Book_____to work, and on completion of his task, give him an order for the rations allowed for his daily support by Vice-Guardians.
_____Relieving Officer.
_____
In charge of working party.

(FORM C.)

ABLE-BODIED.
CASTLEBAR UNION.

No.____ _____Electoral Division.
_____day of_____1848.
Name_____
No. in Applicant Book_____
No. of working party_____
Initialed.

ABLE-BODIED POOR.
CASTLEBAR UNION.

No._____ _____Electoral Division.
_____day of_____1848.
Give bearer for_____
No. in Application Book_____he having completed his task,
_____pounds of_____
_____Overseers in charge of No._____working party.
To_____
Contractor.

(Form K.)

Castlebar Union.

_____Electoral Division.

_____day of_____1848.

No. of working party_____

No. of boxes of stone broken_____

Amount of labour expended_____

_____Signature.

Castlebar Union.

_____Electoral Division.

_____day of_____1848.

I certify that I have measured the amount of work done by No._____working party for week ending_____day of _____1848, and that the correct_____is returned below.

Amount of money value of task done_____

Amount of labour expended during the task_____

No. of boxes of stone broken_____

_____General Overseer.

(Form D.)

Labour Book.—Castlebar Union.

No. of Working Party_____ _____ Electoral Division.

Week ending_____day of_____1848.

No. in Application Book.	Amount of Food warranted if Task be executed.	Labourer's Name.	Age.	Class.	Nature and Extent of Task.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.	No. of Days in which Task was done.	Wet Days.	No. of Days to be accounted for by Labourer.	No. of Days Sick.	No. of Days Absent.	Work Executed, Boxes of Stone.	Overseer's Observations.	Observations by Guardians.

_____Signature of Overseer.

(Form E.)

Castlebar Union.

_____Electoral Division.

Return for Week ended_____day of_____1848.

No. of Working Party.	Place.	No. of Labourers ordered to work.				No. of Days in which Task was done.	Wet Days.	No. of Days to be accounted for by Labourer.	No. of Days Sick.	No. of Days Absent.	Work Executed.
		1st Class.	2d Class.	3d Class.	Total.						Boxes of Stone.

Dated at_____ _____Signature of Overseer.

this_____day of_____1848.

Examined and found correct _____ General Overseer.

this_____day of_____1848.

Return

Return of Implements in Charge.

_____day of_____1848.

In hands, received on_____ of_____											
Total - -											
Returned into Store _____ of_____											
In hands - -											

I certify the foregoing to be correct, and that the Implements returned in hands were counted by me and found in good condition, this_____day of_____ 1848.

_____Signature of Overseer.

(Form F.)

Castlebar Union.

Electoral Division of_____

Return of Able-bodied Persons to render a Task of Work.

Working Party, No._____

Dated at_____the_____of_____1848.

No. in Application Book.	Quantity of Food authorized if Task be Executed.	Name.	Age.	Class.	Task to be Executed.

_____Signature of Relieving Officer.

(Form G.)

Castlebar Union.

Electoral Division of_____

Return of Able-bodied Destitute Persons to receive daily Rations of Rye Bread, provided the daily Task of Work be performed by them.

Week ending_____of_____ 1848.

No. in Application Book.	NAME.	No. of lbs. of Rye Bread allowed daily.	

_____Signature of Relieving Officer.

(Form H.)

Castlebar Union.

Electoral Division of_____

Return of Destitute Persons (not Able-bodied, or their Families) to receive Rations of Indian Meal.

Week ending_____of_____1848.

No. in Application Book.	NAMES.	No. of lbs. of Indian Meal.	

_____Signature of Relieving Officer.

(Form I.)

Castlebar Union.—(Contractor's Bill.)

Electoral Division of_____

The Vice-Guardians, *Dr.*

To_____

For Rye Bread supplied during the week ended_____

_____lbs. at_____per lb.

per annexed Return.

(Form I.)

Castlebar Union.

Electoral Division of_____

Return of Quantity of Rye Bread supplied by_____Contractor, during the Week ended_____1848, upon Tickets signed by Overseers of Work, the said Tickets being hereto annexed.

No. in Application and Report Book.	Lbs. of Bread supplied on the following days:						Total.
	Monday. Lbs.	Tuesday. Lbs.	Wednesday. Lbs.	Thursday. Lbs.	Friday. Lbs.	Saturday. Lbs.	
Total - - -							

Date at_____ _____Signature.

_____day of_____1848.

EVIDENCE.

(No. 14823/48.)

13 March 1848.

William Kearney, Esq., sworn.—I live in the Union of Castlebar, and Electoral Division of Castlebar; I have property both in the Electoral Division of Castlebar and Turlough; I have good means of judging of the state of the people in these Electoral Divisions, and the extent of destitution. It has not occurred to me to consider as to the amount of destitution as compared with the population, at the present. I was a member of the Castlebar Relief Committee last year, and Chairman of the Turlough Relief Committee; I consider the amount of destitution much greater last year than this year; portions of the labouring population who were unable last year, from the price of provisions, to procure food at the rate of wages given in this part of the country can now support themselves and families owing to the present prices, on their wages; this of course only alludes to those in employment; I think that in the Union, that class is considerable, and that there is a good deal of work going on for wages, especially in the Castlebar Electoral Division; I know of hardly any proprietor who is not doing more or less under the Land Improvement Act; I cannot say what proportion of the population could be so employed under the Land Improvement Act; I could not at present name the parties who have applied for loans, and have undertaken works under that Act; but, if I had time, I could make out a list of them; I have taken a loan under it myself of 1,165*l.*; I am at work since October last; I find very great difficulty at present to get men to work for task; I mentioned the circumstance once to Mr. Fishbourne; I asked to have a body of paupers sent to a certain locality, and that I would give so much per box for the breaking of the stone, when done; but I did not apply to the Guardians to discharge a number of men that I might employ them; I went into the Board on last Wednesday for the purpose, but the Guardians were not there; I give now for cutting minor drains from 3*d.* to 4*d.* a statute perch; I would say 3*d.* was the average; a good workman, even finding the hardest description of subsoil, ought to cut four perches in the day; I find it more difficult to get men to break stones by task than to cut drains; I give 4*d.* a box for collecting and breaking stones, for the description of stone in the townland I allude to, I think an able-bodied man could easily collect and break from two or three boxes a-day. What I wished and directed was, that their women and children should assist to collect the stones off the land, and then the man or head of the family would make very high wages, as children could collect the stones as well as able-bodied men; in very few instances did I find that they availed themselves of this; at present I would take 40 stone-breakers more than I have.

In the Electoral Division I allude to an immense number of able-bodied men are getting relief under the Poor Law; I attribute this to their inclination to idleness, and to receive relief without adequate work; I often go to my own works at 8 or 9 o'clock, and find the men not come to work; this very day a man who had collected within the last three days (one being a bad day that he could not work on), about 16 boxes of stones, for which, unbroken, as they were small stones, and collected out of the sand of the river, he would have been entitled to 4*d.* per box, part of the price of which I paid him this morning; after I gave him the money, he said, "Every man, sir, in the parish who gave up his land, except myself, is getting relief, and will you give me a certificate to get it also;" this man resided in Turlough Electoral Division; what he wanted with me was, to get rations for his family, and to work with me himself; I know cases to be common, where the head of the family is at work and the family receiving rations; I complained to the Relieving Officer as to such cases that came to my own knowledge; and when the men were at my own work, and their families receiving rations, and I had them struck off. I found in the printed relief list of persons receiving relief, the name of the head of the family, while, to my own knowledge, he was not an hour absent from his work. I believe that a great number of such cases occur; I think this occurs from the corruption of the Relieving Officers and the Assistant Relieving Officers; I think that the good working of the Poor Law and the safety of the country depend on the able-bodied being kept stringently to the labour-test, and to their being occasionally offered the Workhouse test; I think the change now to giving the able-bodied daily rations of rye bread will have a good effect; I think the test has been quite the contrary in this Union from stringent; I know an instance of an able-bodied man and independent farmer, who was drawing rations for one son, aged 25 or 26, who was in America, and another son, an adult, over 21, who was in England; if these adults had been called on to work, it must have been discovered; I had them struck off the relief list; I think the Guardians could not have prevented such evils; I think the Relieving Officers were the persons to blame. To a certain extent, I believe the giving of out-door relief to the able-bodied, and the non-application of a stringent labour test has withdrawn the able-bodied, not only from seeking work under the works carried on under the Landed Improvement Act, but from the ordinary labour of the country; I have not known of any person not being able to get workmen for the cropping work of their farms; I should fear at present stopping all out-door relief to the able-bodied, but I consider that the lists require a thorough revision, and that a more stringent labour test should be applied, which would itself have the effect of revising the lists in a very short time. I received the circular and printed list of those getting relief, from the Guardians, and I have acted on the request stated in the circular as to the revision of the list; I never made a complaint as to the list to the Guardians, but did to the Relieving Officers; they acted on my information. On one occasion I sent to the Chairman of the Board of Guardians a paper containing a list of persons and my objections to their being

being on the relief list, and I was informed he handed it to the Relieving Officer; but I know that my suggestions were acted on by the Relieving Officer. I consider the amount of relief given in Castlebar Electoral Division much more than ample to meet the number of fit objects for relief, if only the proper objects were on the lists; it is also more than ample in Turlough if the lists were thoroughly revised; I, at the same time, think there are some really destitute and fit objects for relief who are not getting it in Castlebar; I have myself made at least six applications to get about five of such persons on the relief; the Relieving Officer, on the last occasion, told me that he would have them put on immediately, but they were not put on from that to this; I attribute this to the negligence and partiality of the Relieving Officer; I did not complain to the Guardians as to this, but it is my intention to do so. The parties I allude to had not an inch of land, and were wholly destitute; one of them was a man with eight children, and five died of fever and destitution; I made four or five applications for this man, Lawrence Carney, of Castlebar, and I made two applications to get him into the Workhouse, through the Relieving Officer; I applied to no other person. Waters was the name of the Relieving Officer I applied to; and I think I also applied to Mr. Foy. There are by no means as many abuses or anything like to be compared to the number there were last year. Without a new population was transplanted into the country, so extensive a system of relief could not be carried on without great abuses, but I think the abuses might be less if the Relieving Officers could be by any means compelled to do their duty; I think the Relieving Officers had more to do than could have been done up to the present; no Relieving Officer on earth could visit the abode of each applicant, considering the pressure which I know existed, especially in Castlebar. I think the abuses have been greater in Castlebar Electoral Division than in other Electoral Divisions, and especially in the town part of the Electoral Division. I know myself a man named Richard Feeny, a dealer in wooden ware, and having a house in Queen-street, a very comfortable man I will certainly say from my own knowledge, and I never was more surprised than to find his name on the list; I had him struck off; I had also several persons struck off whom I found working on the drainage of the Saleen Lake under the Board of Works; there were several tradesmen on the list to my knowledge that would not have continued a week on the list if they had been made to work; this was about a month ago; I cannot say if such tradesmen are now on the list. One of the principal causes of abuse, I attribute to women representing themselves as widows, and giving their maiden names, and fictitious names, and to persons getting relief as infirm when they are not so. I think the able-bodied females should also be put to some labour test. I am aware that the Guardians labour under great difficulty in procuring persons of sufficient integrity to act as Relieving Officers and Overseers of Works.

March 6, 1848.

Henry Brett, Esq., sworn.—I am county surveyor for the county of Mayo for 12 years, during which time I have had ample opportunities of becoming acquainted with the state of the people. Under the Labour Rate Act I had the sole charge of all the works in the county. I think the destitution in one-half the county, the western part, is fully as great as it was last year; in the half of the county I allude to, I think it as general as to the numbers affected, as last year. I am also quite certain that the distress of the present year amongst the class alluded to, is as intense as it was last year, and that it has come on them with less protection to meet it. The low price of provisions does not lessen the difficulty of their use; for the class I allude to have no means to purchase provisions at any price; although a considerable amount of money was spent amongst the class I allude to last year, the high prices of provisions absorbed it all, and left them to meet the difficulties of this year without any means. The resources from the feeding of pigs, sale of milk, &c., so large an item of the ways and means of the class I allude to, have also disappeared, and left them not only without means, but even the ordinary resources of acquiring means. The relief under the Temporary Relief Act merely enabled the class alluded to to support life. The quantity of turnips raised in the county I should say enabled the class I mean, to live during the interval between the expiration of the Temporary Relief Act and the general introduction of the extended Poor Law Act. Turnips were sown in a most unusual degree through the county, and I think that the preservation of the lives of the great bulk of the destitute classes was mainly owing to the quantities of turnips sown last year. The aid from employment was very small indeed, for the number of small farmers not coming within the class of the destitute that formerly gave some employment, this year sowed the crop by their own exertions and that of their families; about the 1st of January last, the great bulk of the turnips was exhausted, and it is since that I have observed the great pressure of destitution extending to the able-bodied as well as the other classes of the small occupiers. Up to the 1st of November, the physical appearance of the people was greatly improved; since that their appearance has gradually deteriorated, and latterly they are looking as badly as at the same time last year, though not perhaps to the same extent in amonut of numbers. In the baronies of Gallen, Costello, and portions of Clanmorris, Kilmaine and Carra, the great bulk of the people are decidedly better off than last year, owing to their having grown a considerable quantity of potatoes, in addition to turnips, and generally having made great exertions with regard to their corn crops; they are a more industrious and intelligent people than the people in the western portion I have alluded to; though bad is the best. They are also better circumstanced as to their lands and holdings, from having larger farms and on

more

more moderate terms than in the district I have mentioned; and the more especially, that the system of commonage or rundale so prevalent in the western, is not so in the eastern half of the county. The barony of Erris, of the western portion of the county that I allud to, is beyond all comparison the worst. The great mass of the people are there quit destitute, the population has greatly diminished, not much more than one-half what they were, and the state of that country is most fearful.

The next worst portions as to the state of destitution of the people, are the parts of the barony of Burrishoole and Murrisk, extending along the coast, and including the Islands; and then the northern portion of Tyrawley and Gallen is extremely bad. The class I have mentioned have been almost solely dependent on the relief afforded by the Poor Law Extension Act since the 1st January. I think the great bulk of the destitution has been met by the Poor Law, but I hear numerous complaints from poor creatures as to their not being able to obtain relief under it. I have not been able personally to judge of the truth of their complaints, but the complaints are very general, and there are as many strolling beggars as I have seen at any time for the last twelve months, going about the town and attending to seek relief at the places of worship; and many of these parties, I have heard, were receiving out-door relief. I have not any personal knowledge of parties receiving relief, that ought not, and did not require it; but I have heard of many flagrant cases of this kind, and from so many, and such quarters, that I cannot doubt it. On the printed list of persons receiving out-door relief that I saw, I saw the names of pensioners, and trades-people that I believed to be above want, and not proper objects for relief. The Guardians, I know, apply a labour-test to the able-bodied men receiving out-door relief; but, judging from what I have seen of the parties employed (seeing them in groups at work), and from my communications with Captain Farren and the Guardians on the matter, I should say that the system adopted and the amount of supervision employed, is not calculated effectually to check abuse; they are left solely under the superintendence of a set of Assistant Relieving Officers or Overseers, not of a class of sufficient intelligence or integrity to warrant their having the uncontrolled care of such parties, or of seeing the work required properly executed; judging from the small amount of work I have seen that the parties employed do, I should say they were very lax in enforcing any rule on the matter. Great difficulty was found under the Labour Rate Act to get parties to work, and to establish a proper system of control, but in that case there was greater difficulty from the nature of the works the people were employed on, and from the time of year; but there was a much more extensive superintendence—Overseers, Check Clerk, Assisting Engineer and Inspecting Officer, and myself. Stone breaking, though it requires less control than the works I have alluded to, still requires more control than the supervision merely of the Assistant Relieving Officers, that I have alluded to as employed here.

I think it decidedly necessary to have a labour-test for the able-bodied, it is the only effectual check that you can put on them; but to be of any value as a test, it should be stringent, and there should be a proper supervision, which, in this Union or Westport Union, is not the case. Considering the population of this Union, and judging from my knowledge of the amount of destitution in it, I should say that the giving of out-door relief to 17,000, besides 700 or 800 in-door relief in the Workhouse, and the number of children fed by the British Association, would be much over the mark; and that the numbers absolutely requiring relief from the public funds to support life ought not to be over 15,000 at the maximum, taking all modes of relief into account.

The proportion of the population in the Westport Union requiring relief I should say was much greater than in Castlebar Union, although the amount of employment for the able-bodied there is greater than in Castlebar; works under the Land Improvement Act to a considerable extent being undertaken there,—while here the number employed from this resource is comparatively small. I fear that if relief to the able-bodied was altogether stopped, that many would starve; but I think that by a careful scrutiny a per-centage of 25 per cent. for a limited period might advantageously be taken off; I mean especially of the single and younger able-bodied men, in order especially to set that amount of labour free for the spring and cropping work, which it is so essential to have attended to. The Vagrant Act is perfectly inoperative in the county of Mayo, and the beggars and vagrants are as numerous as ever, and even those who were in the Workhouse, and who were sent out on out-door relief, are importunate beggars, annoying the rate-payers.

The state of the people here is different from what it is in other parts; their apathy and scheming have gone beyond all bounds, and even if Workhouse accommodation could be procured for all the able-bodied, it would not act as the test, and check as it does in other parts of the country.

I think the Relieving Officers here are not of a fit and proper class, that they make recommendations, and give relief from the recommendations and interest of others, and not from their own observations after due inquiry into the cases; and I should say that trusting any funds to the Relieving Officers is the great evil of the administration of relief here. My decided impression is, that the Relieving Officers do not make proper inquiry into the cases of the applicants for relief; but even for any salary I think it would be difficult to get a better class that would undertake the duties here, but certainly not for the salaries now given. I often thought that such inquiries might be made by the head constables of Police, or, at all events, that they should be employed to act as a check on and over the Relieving Officers. There are about thirteen or fourteen Police stations in the Union, with a head-constable at each; and if the head-constables cannot be got so to act,

act, it has become imperatively necessary that some Overseer or Supervisor of a better class should be got to control the Relieving Officers, and to check the amount of abuse which, I believe, now exists.

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13 March 1848.

George Clendining, Esq., sworn.—I was, until lately, in conjunction with my brother, Alexander Clendining, Agent to Lord Sligo's estate, in this county; I am at present Agent to Sir R. A. O'Donnell, and I have had very general means of enabling me to judge of the state of the population of the Westport Union. The amount of destitution is very great and variable in each Electoral Division; it would be difficult to form anything like an accurate opinion as to the amount of destitution as compared to the population, and as compared to last year: it is much less; but I could not undertake to state in what proportion. The better class of the small farmers have escaped this year, and also the labourers employed about towns; but the very small holders of land, and those who formerly depended on con-acre, are wholly destitute. There is a portion of the Union where destitution is excessive, and embraces more than half the population, viz., the Electoral Divisions of Ballycroy, Achill, Louisburgh, and Clare Island. I think I could almost in any Union in this county judge of the amount of destitution from the quality of the land. The Electoral Divisions I have alluded to comprise the worst land—unreclaimed moor, with a large population on the sea-coast; the population having become excessive, owing to the facilities of living afforded by the sea, and the non-proportionable cultivation of the land; the people not devoting their time to any one pursuit, and as bad fishermen as they are bad farmers, consequently the population has increased beyond the means of production, either of the sea or land, from the manner these resources are made available by the population. I consider the amount of relief afforded under the Poor Law to be much more than sufficient to meet the destitution, if only proper objects received relief; which can only be attained by thorough revision of the lists by proper parties. I consider the abuses that exist chiefly caused by the fear and negligence or dishonesty of improper Relieving Officers. I consider that the number of able-bodied persons now receiving out-door relief in the Union of Westport will prove detrimental and prevent the usual cultivation of the land this spring, as the people consider the out-door relief more certain than their hold on the land. Some persons deceive and pretend to have given up their land in order to get relief, and so be better able to cultivate their land. I am of opinion that not one-tenth of the persons getting out-door relief have really given up their land. The establishing of a proper labour-test for the able-bodied receiving relief, would act as a check; but there is not a proper test for the purpose: the overseers are a class only removed a step from paupers themselves. It would be impossible to carry out such an extensive system of out-door relief with the means at the disposal of the administrators of the law without abuses. At the same time many of the abuses might be lessened by a better division of Unions into Electoral Divisions; making it more the interest of the proprietors to look after their own properties, by employing a better class of Relieving Officers and Overseers; the present abuses might, however, be greatly lessened.

Though I think, on the whole, that the amount of relief given is much beyond the amount required, if properly administered to only the proper objects, I am at the same time aware of many instances of fit objects not getting relief; and I think the frequent publication of lists of the persons getting relief would be of great use in enabling all interested parties to point out and check abuses. The persons resident in the town of Westport view with great alarm the prospect of future poor-rates, as I believe the rural portion of the rate-payers of the Electoral Division will not be able to pay 25 per cent. of their present rate, and the towns-people anticipate more frequent rates being laid on; I know two or three instances at present of shopkeepers emigrating, alleging that as the reason, if all paid their rates, they would not so much mind it. It is also a source of great complaint, that persons not really belonging to the town flock in from various divisions, and become chargeable on the town Electoral Division. I think in the present state of the country, the property of the Union without an absorbing tax, could not pay for more than the support of the Workhouse.

I should dread a sudden stoppage of the out-door order for relief to the able-bodied, although I think great evil and abuse might be prevented by a proper revision of the lists of the able-bodied persons now getting relief; single able-bodied men from sixteen upwards I would not give out-door relief to, because I think they could get employment.

Westport, 10 March 1848.

John Louden, sworn.—I am one of the rate collectors for the Union of Westport; I got the collecting books on the 17th of November 1847; I did not get the receipt books for about a fortnight after; I am also Deputy Collector of the County Cess for the barony of Murrisk; I have been Deputy Cess Collector for the barony for about 12 years; my district as Rate Collector comprises the Electoral Divisions of Westport, Louisburgh, Clare Island, Aughagower, Kilmeena, Kilmaclasser, and Islandeady; the amount of rate I had to collect was 6,780 *l.* and odd pounds; I have collected about 2,300 *l.* up to the present; I have not taken any steps against the better class of rate-payers who now owe rates for land in their occupation, except serving six days' notice on them in some cases, owing to their from time to time promising to pay me; I allude now to persons who are rated as occupiers; the greater number of the persons rated as for land in their occupation have paid me, and those that have

have not have promised to do so; there are a few instances of persons rated as occupiers who will not be able to pay, and are as poor as any in the Workhouse; but such are very few indeed; I have not served notices on all the occupiers who have not paid; my men were prevented from doing so in the Islandeady Electoral Division and in the Louisburgh Electoral Division, by a large mob, chiefly composed of women and children; I sent a second time to have the notices in Islandeady served, with the same result; it is in these Electoral Divisions that the principal part of the rate due by occupiers is unpaid. When my men were prevented from serving the notices in these Electoral Divisions I stated the case to Mr. Morony, R.M., and he told me to have the men who went to serve the notices in on the next court day at Westport; I had them there, and so told Mr. Morony; he told me that he had so many calls to attend to that he had no time to attend to take their informations; (I brought the men to swear the informations then); but that he would lay the particulars before the Government, and require more help; he did nothing for me since; but he told me a short time ago (better than a month ago), that he would go with me with assistance after the assizes; I did not since apply to him (Mr. Morony), on the matter; I took care not to go or send there again, owing to the threats of the people; one of my men was desperately beaten there; he did not take proceedings against them for the beating; he thought he would bring them to quietness after a little, and I thought so too, and that the people would get sorry; he knew some of the parties who beat him, and flung stones at him. In no case except one did I distrain on my own warrant (Pat. Reilly, of Murrisk); I went to his land and took his horse; the horse is still in pound; on last Tuesday I seized the horse; I give four days' time after a seizure before I sell, as such is given under the Grand Jury Act; that was the instruction I got from the barony constable; I thought that was the law; I did not know that I could sell in less time under my warrant as Rate Collector; the amount I distrained Reilly for was 3 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.*; did not proceed to distrain on my warrant in other cases, because I found, on serving a six days' notice, and getting a summons for the parties, that they generally paid up; I was generally paid after the issue of the summons before bringing the parties before the bench of magistrates; a number of cases I did bring before the bench and got decrees; the greater part paid up after the decree was pronounced; in a few cases I got decrees, and the parties did not pay up, but I have not yet executed these decrees; it was only yesterday I got them perfected from the Clerk of the Petty Sessions. The amount of rate I have collected has been almost all paid by persons rated as occupiers; the amount paid by immediate lessors has been extremely small; I do not now recollect the exact amount; I presented a list to the Guardians of the immediate lessors who owe rates better than a month ago, as I recollect Lord Sligo has paid since I sent in the list, as immediate lessor, 333 *l.*, and Lord Lucan 36 *l.*; that is all that was paid since I furnished the list; the lists I furnished to the Guardians were, to the best of my belief, correct; I have furnished a list to the greater part of the immediate lessors of the amount they were rated for in my books; some few I have not yet served with such a list, as I did not and do not know their address. I furnished Lord Sligo with a list and detail of the amount rated against him as immediate lessor some time in December last; I furnished Lord Lucan with a list on the 11th of December for the Westport and Kilmaclasser part of his property, and for the Clare Island Electoral Division portion of his property about a month after; I also served the house of Lord Lucan with a 15 days' notice to pay his rate; I did this because he did not pay his former rates; I did not serve Lord Sligo with a 15 days' notice because he paid his former rates, and told me he was willing to pay everything the Guardians said he was liable for; the list I furnished Lord Sligo with I found afterwards did not contain the whole amount for which he is rated as immediate lessor; I did not know that some townlands were his until the last few days; in the collecting book a name is not inserted in the column for immediate lessors rated for hereditaments at and under 4 *l.*, only the words immediate lessor and some of the townlands; I did not know who the immediate lessor or landlord was; I never followed up the 15 days' notice I served on Lord Lucan; I thought it was the Guardians that should follow up the steps on the 15 days' notice, and therefore I did not proceed further; I told the Guardians so, and they gave me no instructions; on last Wednesday week they told me I should get my own solicitor, and sue these gentlemen who owed their rates; some of the immediate lessors told me, on my applying to them for their rates, that they would not pay until they would see Lord Lucan pay first; that it was too bad they should be asked to pay a second rate, whereas he was not compelled to pay the first; if Lord Lucan was made to pay I would have no trouble with all the rest; even the occupiers murmur and grumble why he, the Lord Lieutenant of the county, is not made to pay. If I was allowed to take part payments from the smaller class of occupiers I would have had a much larger sum paid to me from that class; on last Thursday and last Thursday fortnight numbers tendered me part payment, but could not make out the whole, and expressed a great willingness to pay all if they could; I did not take part payment since the Guardians cautioned me not; these observations chiefly refer to the Electoral Division of Westport, where the last rate amounted to 5 *s.*, and most of the former rate of 2 *s.* 6 *d.* being uncollected when the last was made, brought the amount to be collected now, in most cases, to 7 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound. The amount of the rate in Kilmeena Electoral Division was 3 *s.* 1½ *d.* in the pound; some of the poorer class of persons rated as occupiers came also to ask me to take half of the rate from them; the last rate in Louisburgh Electoral Division was 5 *s.* in the pound; I have not latterly attempted to collect from parties not rated in the rate-books, and valued at and under 4 *l.*, since I was cautioned not to do so by the Guardians; I used to collect from these parties, and got the rates from them; the immediate lessors used to tell me to do so; if the rate had been less in Westport and

Louisburgh I would have had it all swept from the occupiers by this; but it is so enormously high, that they murmur more at it than at the rent. I get 2 *s.* 6 *d.* in the pound for the collection.

Westport Union.

No. 14823/48. 10 March 1848.

No. on out-door relief under section 1 } Relieving Officers' books not done up. } Total, 21,202.
„ „ 2 }

No. in Workhouse:—

Men	288
Women	329
Boys under 15	196
Girls under 15	127
Infants	48
	——988

The relief list not being made up, I cannot say how many chargeable to each Electoral Division.

No. of children receiving rations in schools	7,766
Do. any of those who receive out-door relief	scarcely any.
Or the other members of their families	scarcely any.

Total Amount of Rate, and when Collecting Books were given out, showing the Amount of Rate in the Pound on each Electoral Division.

The total amount of rate is 8,386 *l.* 10 *s.* 6¾ *d.* The collector' books were given 17th November 1847. The rate in the pound on Westport Division is 5 *s.*, Louisburgh 5 *s.*, and the other eight divisions of the Union at 3 *s.* 1½ *d.*, amounting to £. 7,335 14 8

	£.	*s.*	*d.*
Arrears of former rate	1,050	15	10¾
Total rate and arrears	£.8,386	10	6¾
Amount collected	3,089	1	11
„ uncollected	£.5,297	8	7¾

	Immediate Lessors. £. *s.* *d.*	Occupiers. £. *s.* *d.*	£. *s.* *d.*
Uncollected Rate—Mr. Louden, Collector	3,062 9 11	1,433 5 8½	
„ „ Sir R. A. O'Donnell	550 – –	251 13 –¼	
Total uncollected £.	3,612 9 11	1,684 18 8¾	5,297 8 7¾
Liabilities of the Union to 1st March, exclusive of advances by Government to Vice-Guardians £.			1,583 – 4

	Amount. £. *s.* *d.*	Paid by V.-Guardians. £. *s.* *d.*	Remaining. £. *s.* *d.*
Outstanding checks of late Board	1,258 3 3	362 16 4	895 6 11
Debts of late Board—no checks	1,716 1 1	570 16 5	1,145 1 8
Total liabilities to 1st March 1848 £.	2,974 4 4	– – –	3,623 8 11

Exclusive of 2,075 *l.* due Exchequer Loan Commissioners, and 440 *l.* due to Poor Law Commissioners.

Advances from Poor Law Commissioners to late Board	£.440 – –
Ditto ditto to Vice-Guardians	250 – –
Ditto from British Relief Association	3,010 – –
Total	£.3,700 – –

John Egan,
Clerk Westport Union.

Westport,

Westport, 9 March 1848.

George Hildebrand, Esq., sworn.—I am at present agent to Lord Sligo; I am also Barony Constable for the barony of Murrisk. I have been Barony Collector for 12 or 14 years, and I am all my life thoroughly acquainted with Lord Sligo's estate.

With regard to the bulk of the population, I should say the same extent of destitution did not on the whole exist as last year; amongst certain classes of the population I think the distress greater than last year. Amongst the class embracing the better class of small farmers it is less; those that were destitute last year are equally so this: the only difference is, that the destitution did not commence until a later period this year; the pressure of destitution was not so great until Christmas this year, (it commenced in October last year), when the turnip crop began to be exhausted. It was the turnips alone that prevented the pressure of destitution from not commencing as early as last year.

I do not consider that the corn crop was an average one last year; the land was not properly cropped or tilled, the people did not commence to cultivate their land, or sow the crop in time, a general impression being amongst the people last year that the Government would do it for them, which was not removed until a very late period. The cheapness of provisions this year as compared to last, does not affect the circumstances of the class I allude to that were destitute last year, and are also destitute this year. If meal was for 6 *d.* a stone it would not affect that class, as they are devoid of any means to purchase at any price, and cannot obtain employment by which they could earn wages; but it materially affects and assists the better class of small farmers that I first alluded to, and the low prices will prevent that class from becoming destitute this year. And that class would be raised into comparative affluence only for the thefts that they are subjected to from the destitute class, or rather from idlers and schemers that go through the country; no property can be safely left out, and even what is housed and under lock and key, is in many cases stolen. The better class of farmers that I allude to, paid their rents tolerably well; a year and a half's rent out of two years, that is some, or I might say a great number of them.

I am doubtful as to expressing an opinion as to the number of destitute as compared to the whole population in the Union; it is an embarrassing question, and great difficulty exists to prevent the formation of an accurate opinion as to it; but I should think that there are more than one quarter of the population destitute, and requiring relief to support life; it varies in different districts; but when I mention a quarter, I am speaking generally of the Union. In some districts the proportion amounts to more than a half; from what I hear of Islandeady, Achill and Ballycroy, it is in a very bad state; also, Clare Island and Innisturk Island. I think the west part of this parish (Oughevel), and a part of Kilgevar, is the worst part of the Sligo estate that I am particularly acquainted with. I think that, generally speaking, the relief administered under the Poor Law Extension Act has amply met the amount of destitution, and the amount of the rations is sufficient for the support of the families receiving them. There have been cases, and I make no doubt there are some still, of abuse: persons getting relief that were not fit objects to receive it. When I have discovered such on Lord Sligo's estate, I took steps to have the matter remedied, and to have them put off, and my representations have been invariably attended to by the Guardians. There might be a few isolated cases of persons who are fit objects not getting relief; but I should say very few indeed. Up to the present I think the parties seeking and obtaining relief, have quietly, and willingly, and really given up the occupation of all their land, reserving in some cases their cabin and quarter of a statute acre. But since the approach of the spring season, there seems to be a disposition to re-possess themselves of the land. I generally objected to their giving up their holdings on Lord Sligo's estate, and reserving the cabin or quarter of a statute acre; in some cases I did allow the cabin and quarter of an acre to be retained; but wherever I possibly could effect the removal of the family off the holding altogether, I did so, and I generally succeeded. There is an impression amongst the people, that they are not to pay anything for the cabin and half of an acre. Those that left their holding altogether generally went amongst the villages to where their connexions were residing, and obtained shelter. I have in some cases given money to get possession of their houses; as much as 2 *l.* in some cases, the lowest I gave was 10 *s.* On the whole, I consider that the relief has been administered as impartially in this Union as it could be under the very peculiar and difficult circumstances. I am greatly alarmed at the amount of relief given, but I do not see how it could well be less, considering the state of the country, and the great difficulty of confining the granting of relief only to proper objects, and in order to preserve the lives of the people. But I consider it utterly impossible that any rates could be raised from the Union to meet the expense of the amount of relief at present afforded; the means are not in the country; a few individuals may, and have paid, and will pay; but, speaking as a whole, I am almost assured that even the present rate cannot be paid. I do not apply this to landlords, for they can be made to pay by taking their land, but the bulk of the landlords have not means to pay it, unless their land is taken and sold. I have given the subject the most serious consideration, but I do not see how the funds are to be raised; if I could at all see how the evil could be remedied, I would give all the time and means at my disposal to accomplish it; but I cannot see it. The amount of the warrant returnable to this assizes for the barony of Murrisk, was 1,046 *l.* odd; out of this, I have collected 600 *l.*, and I advanced 400 *l.* I think I could have collected this, and I doubt not but I will be able to collect it. I have paid the whole amount—I paid it yesterday. The poor-rate is not only six times the amount of the county cess, but a more obnoxious tax;

the cess is not more than about 1*s.* 2*d.* in the pound. The poor-rate in this Electoral Division, is 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound. The making the rate so high as 7*s.* 6*d.* in the pound in this Electoral Division has had a most injurious effect; if it had been 2*s.* 6*d.*, I think it could have been collected, but 7*s.* 6*d.* I think out of the question. The rate is 3*s.* 1½*d.* in all the Electoral Divisions but Westport. The immediate lessors, I allude particularly to Lord Sligo, think it a hardship, and illegal, to be called on to pay the rate for persons valued at and under 4*l.*, who have leases made prior to the passing of the Act; and this is the case in very many instances. I did not on the part of Lord Sligo in such cases appeal against the rate; I did not think it necessary. I know now better than I did, that there is an appeal given under the Act. I now feel more interested in it; I would wish now that the time had not elapsed for an appeal. It is absolutely necessary that a proper revision of the Union should be made, and the proper parties according to the law in future only rated; I think the want of this impedes the collection of the rate in a great degree. I think the rate-books very loosely made out and inaccurate. Of the cases I alluded to as valued under 4*l.* and rated against the landlord, though having leases, some of them are included in old joint leases, and some are not. In the rent office, we however receive rent from them individually, though the only parties recognized on the rental are those to whom the land was originally leased, or their heirs. If the rent is not paid where there is a joint lease, or where parties to whom the land was leased have subdivided it, as is always the case, we do not look to individuals, but drive the whole townland. I take any rent that is offered from individuals; but if all I get does not amount to the whole rent, I drive the whole townland for the balance.

I think the population has considerably decreased since the Census of 1841. I think one-tenth has certainly gone by deaths and emigration since that period.

I think that the out-door support of the destitute in this Union can never be maintained by a local rate, the capabilities of the country not being equal to it, and if persevered in, it will not only prevent the possibility of arriving at a better state of things, but paralyze the whole country, and reduce it to a worse state than it has ever been in. The employment in the Union is very trifling; Lord Sligo, Lord Lucan and Sir R. O'Donnell, have the better class of the able-bodied tenantry employed under the Land Improvement Act. But what signifies this? it is comparatively nothing compared to the numbers of able-bodied for whom there is not work; there was about 1,500 employed by Lord Sligo under that Act. The first instalment is out, and we are waiting to have the works inspected to get another. I was thinking of stopping the works for some time now, otherwise they will not mind their spring work, or cultivate their land for a crop. I think the out-door relief to the really able-bodied will have the same effect; some farmers complained to me yesterday that they could not get men for a shilling a day, which is higher wages than the prices of provisions warrant; this must be caused by the out-door relief to the able-bodied. The Guardians do all they can to try and get work from them, but they do not succeed; they do not work. There is really no such thing as a labour-test put to them; it would be better to give them the food without asking work, than as it is, paying a staff that do not really obtain any work from them. I am thoroughly disgusted with it. I came on a stone-breaking depôt about a fortnight since, at Achill Sound; it was between nine and ten o'clock when I came up, and the men had not come to work. When I came back at two o'clock they were at work, but such a pretence for work I never saw. I think it would be almost impossible to get a better class of Overseers or Relieving Officers, and I attribute to this difficulty, any abuses that exist in a great degree.

Castlebar, 11 March 1848.

Sir R. A. O'Donnell, sworn.—I am at present one of the rate collectors for the Union of Westport, since, as I recollect, the 1st of November. I was not in a proper position to enter on the collection, for want of all the necessary books and papers to enable me to work, for about six weeks after. My collection district comprises the Electoral Divisions of Newport, Ballycroy and Achill. 1,600*l.* and odd pounds was the amount I had to collect; out of this I have, I think, collected about 850*l.*; this amount has been chiefly collected from immediate lessors, for tenements rated against them, valued at and under 4*l.*; between 500*l.* and 600*l.* have been so collected from immediate lessors. All the immediate lessors that paid, paid the full amount according to the bill furnished, except myself, and I do not owe more than 100*l.* or perhaps 150*l.*, to the best of my opinion. Some of the immediate lessors have not paid as yet, but the money is promised in a way that I have no doubt of its being paid the end of this month; and what is due by them, excepting myself, does not amount to more than 100*l.*, as I recollect, without my books.

I have already paid about 400*l.* of my own rates, and I am making arrangements to pay the balance; the Vice-Guardians owe me a considerable sum, beyond what I owe of rates, for meal. I think out of the 1,600*l.* I had to collect, about one-half, 800*l.*, was to be paid by immediate lessors; of this there is about 200*l.* still due by immediate lessors, the balance to be collected from persons rated as occupiers, and I expect to get 200*l.* at least of this. There are but few of a better class of occupiers, about 20 (in my collection district); every one of those have paid, except two. The rest of the amount which was collected was collected from the poorer class of the occupiers, of which the great bulk of the population are composed. The amount unpaid by occupiers I attribute, in a great degree, to the want of means on their part; but I expect to be able to get about one-half of what now remains due by occupiers. I have not, that I am aware of, collected any rate from persons

persons valued at and under 4 *l.* for whom their immediate lessors were rated. I have taken legal proceedings against persons who were rated as occupiers by summonses before magistrates after six days' notice; in many instances, the parties paid before the cases came on for adjudication, and in many cases the parties allowed it to run to a warrant. In cases where warrants were issued, I generally distrained as soon as possible on obtaining the warrant; I think I did so in about 40 cases. Some warrants I have not taken out yet; I only take them out as I can attend to them. I was able, without police, or soldiers, or difficulty, to effect a distress on the warrants I executed. I do not recollect being forced to a sale in any instance; there may have been a case of it, but the parties almost always paid on a seizure being made under the warrant. In all cases that I took out the warrants I was able to effect a seizure. I took care of this. In one case I acted on my own warrant as Rate Collector, and distrained; it was a case where I found stock, and where I wished to make an example; I made the seizure in person. I calculated that there would be about 300 *l.* out of the 1,600 *l.* that I could not collect; and I believe this will be about the sum that will remain uncollectable. I think this will be uncollectable chiefly from the total inability of some of the parties to pay it.

I am generally very well acquainted with the Union of Westport; I think the greatest amount of destitution in the Union exists in Ballycroy, Achill, Newport and Clare Island Electoral Divisions. I have not formed any opinion as to the extent of destitution as compared to last year. I think some of a class of persons got relief last year that were not entitled to it that do not get it this year, and do not look for it, being more anxious to hold the land. In the administration of relief this year under the extended Poor Law Act, I consider that a great many get out-door relief that hold more than a quarter of an acre. I knew a family holding land to get relief three times for the whole family, *i.e.*, the father got it for the whole family, the mother got it for the whole family, and one of the children got it for the whole family. I have known instances where persons have been drawing the meal in two districts. I knew a publican in Newport, not by any means a fit object for relief, getting it. I believe many receive out-door relief, and the head of the family being at work and receiving wages that would support his family; the wives pretending to be widows when the husband is really alive and at work. I at once brought those cases before the Vice-Guardians as they came under my notice, and had them rectified; those abuses were caused by want of sufficiently extensive machinery, and the want of a proper class of Relieving Officers. I believe that a great number of such cases of abuse still exist; we are finding them out every day. From the great area of the Relieving Officers' districts, and from the amount of relief given, it is almost impossible to prevent abuses, especially when you consider the proneness of the people to deceive in order to get relief, and the difficulty of detecting them; and especially after so extensive and demoralising an amount of relief as was given last year. As far as the Vice-Guardians could, they have endeavoured to check abuse, and to have the quarter of an acre clause acted on.

A few cases of persons requiring relief, and entitled to it and not getting it, have come under my notice in my district; but I believe such cases to be comparatively few. When such cases came under my notice, I took care to get them put on the list. The extent of relief given in the Union of Westport, and even in the worst parts of it, I consider not only sufficient to meet the number of cases of real destitution, but much more than sufficient, if the cases getting relief were properly scrutinized, and all struck off who are not really destitute.

Allowing for the difference in the amount of relief given this year and last year, I think there is not as large a proportionable amount of abuse this year as there was last year—I mean as to persons getting relief that ought not to get it; although the abuses are very great this year, last year they were enormous. The class of men required to make proper Relieving Officers are very difficult to be got, not to be got in my district. I am certain the Relieving Officers do not make proper inquiries into the cases of the applicants; and I also am certain that there is great favouritism and neglect on their parts, which, with such men as Relieving Officers, it would be quite impossible for the Guardians effectually to check.

The number of persons begging through the country is greater than I ever recollect, and very many of those parties I believe to be receiving out-door relief; I have found such to be the case in many instances. To prevent the abuses attendant on the present system of out-door relief I would have confined all relief to in-door relief, providing houses as required in different parts of the Union; and I believe that the distress (if the course I mention had been adopted in time) could have been met by in-door relief. I think, now, after such extensive out-door relief having been so long in operation under the Poor Law, and relief to the able-bodied having been granted by an order, in-door relief could not be altogether substituted for out-door relief; but the abuses could be considerably checked by a greater amount of in-door relief being provided, even now, and many of the abuses that at present exist be prevented by it. I have known instances of parents giving up their land to their children in order to get out-door relief, and people selling their cattle and all they had, and putting the money in their pocket, and then getting out-door relief. I think the giving out-door relief to the able-bodied operates most injuriously, by feeding labourers, who otherwise would and could get work. I have taken a large loan under the Land Improvement Act, 12,000 *l.*, and I cannot get sufficient labourers to carry on the work with spirit; and this is in the poorest part of the Union, and where the greatest number of able-bodied persons are getting out-door relief. I applied to the Vice-Guardians for 100 men, and I got them, and those men refused to work, unless I gave them, at day's wages a

shilling a-day, although by fairly working by task, at the price I pay per perch, they could earn a shilling a-day. Those men the Guardians refused to let back on out-door relief, and they are falling into my work by degrees.

There never was such a humbug as the work the Guardians attempt to get in return for the out-door relief they give to the able-bodied. I have known them to go to the place of work merely to have their names called, and then walk away; and I have known an overseer to be absent from depôts under his charge for three weeks, and at the same time to return the men as having been at work. I have known men to have been returned as at work at the depôts when they were out dredging for oysters, and others working for the overseers themselves. I view with great alarm the amount of out-door relief given to the able-bodied during the spring and cropping season, as likely, or rather certain, to prevent the proper cultivation of the land. I believe all the clearly able-bodied in the district of Newport could get work from this forth, so as to enable them to earn a means of subsistence for themselves and families; I only call those able-bodied that could, if they liked to work, give me a fair day's work for a fair day's wages. I would myself give employment the whole season to 600 men a-day if I could get them: I have as yet been only able to get 440 a-day, and when I ask them to work they tell me they can get support without me. I think it will be most injurious to the present and future state of the country if out-door relief is continued to such an extent to the able-bodied.

Castlebar, 13 March 1848.

William Barrett, sworn.—I distributed the meal for Mr. Charles Maley, who is a contractor to the Guardians for the supply of meal for out-door relief; I only distributed it in Adergoole Electoral Division; I distribute the meal at a store in Lahardan; the Relieving Officer furnishes me with a list of the names of the persons who are to receive the meal, and the quantity each is to receive; the Relieving Officer attends some times at the distribution. For the first time he not only gave me the list I mentioned, but gave the persons who were to receive the meal tickets to receive it, and the persons applying handed the tickets to me, and I gave them the quantity of meal mentioned in the ticket; after comparing the tickets with my list, I kept the tickets; I hold them still; Mr. Maley did not require the tickets to send them to the Guardians with his accounts; I always showed the Relieving Officer the list, but he did not compare the list with the tickets or his book; I never saw him sign the list; after the first time he only gave me a supplemental list, *i. e.* of the parties to be added to the old list, and crossed out with red ink those that were to be struck off; he did not give the ticket except for the first week; I did not require tickets after the first, because I knew the parties; there was no confusion at the place of distribution, and I never discovered a person getting a wrong quantity; I never knew but of one mistake, where a woman pretended that she had got only half a stone where she had got a stone.

Castlebar, 6 March 1848.

William Malley, sworn.—I am Barony Cess Collector for the barony of Carra, and Collector of Poor Rates for the Union of Castlebar; I have, I think, been Barony Constable for 12 or 14 years; I have been Poor-Rate Collector since about the month of last October; the warrants in the collecting books are, I believe, dated the 25th of October; I almost immediately after the receipt of the collecting books began to collect; I believe that the sum I got to collect, including arrears, was about 9,000 *l.*; up to the present, upwards of 2,500 *l.* has been collected by me; the lists I have had to make out, and the forms I have had to fill for the Vice-Guardians and the Inspectors, have very much interfered with me in the discharge of my duties, and delayed the collection; I have had not more than three days in the week that I could quietly and determinedly attend to the collection since I commenced; I am sure it is not from want of means in the country that the collection of the rate is not more advanced, but chiefly from my not being able to attend to the collection, for the reasons I have stated; the weather and the shortness of the days were also very much against the collection, and impeded what I might otherwise have done in the three days in each week; in the remote parts of the Union to which the access is very bad, I had acceded in conjunction with the advice of the resident Magistrate, Mr. Morony, to defer taking steps to enforce the collection of the rate until the season advanced; the greater portion of the rate now due is due by parties who are able to pay; the amount that has been paid, has not been chiefly paid by the classes who are well able to pay, except in the town of Castlebar, where the most solvent occupiers have paid with very few exceptions: in the rural part of the district there is manifested a much greater disinclination to pay on the part of the best of the occupiers than on the part of those who are comparatively poor. A short time since, on sworn information, I think last Friday three weeks, I had to apply for the assistance of police and military to collect the rate in the Electoral Division of Strade, which I got, and drove several head of cattle, all of which were redeemed, and the amount in each case paid; I then appointed an office day in each week for the convenience of the rate-payers in Strade, where several rate-payers have attended and paid the amount due; but some of the better order of rate-payers drove the cattle off their lands when they heard of my coming down, to prevent my seizing them; some of the parties that so drove the cattle off their lands were magistrates of the county, and that had a bad effect on the other rate-payers; one of those magistrates tendered me 6 *l.* out of 24 *l.*; I told him I would take the money, and did so, but that I would not give a receipt; I knew he was well able to pay, and I told him that the moment I heard that the cattle were on the land I would distrain him for the balance;

balance; the rate demanded by me was rate due by him as being occupier of the lands; he said the landlord was liable for all the rates and taxes; I had first applied to the landlord, Myles M'Donnell, and he referred me to the occupier, Mr. Edward Deane, sen., and after repeatedly applying to both parties, I had to proceed to drive the lands; Myles M'Donnell is the person returned as owing the rate of the lands in the collecting book, but Mr. Deane is in occupation of the lands, and holds them under Mr. M'Donnell for some time back before the making of the last rate; not since the previous rate, and since the valuation was made; Mr. Deane has since promised to pay me the balance, having been informed that he is liable for the amount; I have not up to the present taken proceedings by civil bill, generally before magistrates at petty sessions; I have generally proceeded to distrain on my own warrants, as I consider that the most advisable course; I have not taken proceedings to distrain all those who have property that I could distrain, nor anything like all; I had not time to do so; several of the larger occupiers and gentry have promised to pay me at the next assizes, and I did not think it right to take steps to enforce payment until after the time had elapsed that they had promised to pay me; those that do not keep their promise I will take immediate steps to enforce the rate from them by the most active steps; when I have demanded the rate from the class I have alluded to, and the comfortable farmers, they told me that they would have to sacrifice their cattle by selling them at the time, not being in a marketable state; a great many of them have not means to pay until they dispose of their cattle; I have every reason to believe that I will be able to get the rate from all the parties who have the means to pay in a short time, when the fairs commence, and when the cattle are in a marketable state; I know that there are many who could pay their rate out of savings of money and other produce who have not paid, and I mean to proceed against them by summons; I think the class in the Union valued above 4*l.*, who are not able to pay from absolute want of means, are comparatively few; the immediate lessors rated for occupiers at and under 4*l.* have not paid; as well as I recollect the greater portion of the rate now to be collected is due by immediate lessors; I furnished the accounts of the rate rated against the immediate lessors, to the best of my recollection, to all the immediate lessors; there may be some that I could not find the address of; I furnished a list to the Guardians of the immediate lessors who have not paid their rates; on last Saturday week none of them in the list have since paid; the immediate lessors appear to think that there is no law to compel them to pay for the occupiers of land leased, though the lessees are not in existence, and though all the present occupiers pay their rent; leaving out of consideration the rate rated against immediate lessors for parties whom it is stated hold under lease, all the immediate lessors have not paid their rates for parties who are valued at and under 4*l.*, and are rated against them; I repeatedly told the immediate lessors who refused to pay, that I had nothing to say as to whether they were legally, or the reverse, rated; that I was bound to collect and they to pay what was rated against them in the rate-book, unless they appealed and had the rate altered or quashed. In Lord Lucan's case, Sir R. Palmer's, Lord Kilmaine's, and many others, I applied to them for payment of their rates, and furnished accounts at a time when they might have appealed, if they felt disposed to dispute the payment; they did not appeal, and did not pay the rates for which they were rated as immediate lessors. Sir R. Palmer's under agent came to my office the other day and stated, that as Sir R. Palmer, or his agent, had not appealed in time, that he would pay the balance of my account, with the exception of the rate rated against Sir R. Palmer, as immediate lessor, on two or three townlands; the three immediate lessors who are rated highest are Lord Lucan, Sir R. Palmer, and Lord Kilmaine, and those parties are now in the hands of the Solicitor of the Board of Guardians; the Earl of Arran paid me his rates as immediate lessor without any dispute; the barony cess returnable to the next assizes is about 3,000*l.*; from the barony of Carra, up to the present, I have not more than 1,300*l.* collected; this is in a great degree owing to the destitution of the people; the class of persons I have to collect the county cess from are more destitute than the class I have to collect the poor-rate from, every occupier being liable to pay county cess; whereas those valued at and under 4*l.*, are exempted under the Poor Law from rates, except those who have leases, and that class is, of course, in almost all cases the most destitute; I find a greater reluctance amongst those parties who are liable to pay both county cess and poor-rate to pay the poor-rate than the county cess; they prefer paying the cess to paying rent or any other tax,—I mean that they are better disposed to pay the county cess than any other charge; the state of sickness and distress amongst the small occupiers is such as to render it impossible for me to take forcible measures to collect the cess; in the performance of my duties as Barony Collector, I have become acquainted with the state of destitution in the Barony to a great extent, perhaps greater than almost any other person; I have found many of the parties owing cess receiving out-door relief, and in some cases selling the meal to pay the cess; I have found parties receiving out-door relief who were not fit objects to receive it, and in comparatively comfortable circumstances, as well as parties not receiving it who were clearly destitute, and fit objects to receive it; I am sure that the number of persons receiving out-door relief who are not fit objects to receive it is considerable, and I am also sure that many persons who are fit objects do not receive it; I know this from my own personal knowledge; I attribute this to the class of persons that are employed as Relieving Officers with their general connexions and friends amongst the people to inquire as to fit objects and to distribute relief, and to the proneness of the most comfortable as well as the poorest to deceive, and to try by every means to get a share of any public relief that is going; any feeling of shame on the part of persons receiving relief who do not require it is altogether extinct, and they

strive by every means to get it, and say, "My neighbour has it, and I may as well get it myself;" I cannot take upon myself to say how all this could be obviated; you might get a more respectable class of Relieving Officers as to station, but perhaps not honester; if strangers were introduced, they would be led astray altogether from want of knowledge of the people; I think if the able-bodied men who are receiving out-door relief were kept properly to work under a strict system, it would prevent much abuse; they would not be so anxious to look for out-door relief; I am sure they are not now kept strictly to work; the breakage of stones would be of great use for the purpose of drainage as well as for the roads.

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5 March 1848.

John Dwyer, sworn.—I live in the town of Castlebar. I am a merchant in the town of Castlebar, and I attend to the business myself. I have considerable opportunities to enable me to judge of the state of the people, and also to the mode of the administration of the relief under the Poor Law in the town, from my having a shop immediately opposite the Contractor's for the issue of the meal. I have had considerable opportunity of judging of the mode in which the relief is administered, and from the appeals of the people to me, a very great number of the lower class, that appear to be in very great destitution, come to make their complaint known to me. I know very many of them from my own knowledge to be in great distress; they come to me mostly to complain that they do not get relief, while persons much better off than themselves do get relief; generally speaking, that is their complaint. Although I know that imposition prevails to a great extent, yet I have, from inquiries I made into such cases, generally proved them to be correct; and that destitute persons in an extreme state of destitution have been left without relief. I am aware from my own knowledge of persons in comfortable circumstances, and who are not fit objects for relief, obtaining relief. When I have made representation to the Vice-Guardians as to persons in extreme distress not getting relief, those representations have been generally, I may say always, attended to. I cannot say that I have made complaints to the Guardians as to persons getting relief that ought not, more than came under your own observation on last Saturday. I do not attribute to the Board of Vice-Guardians the slightest intention to refrain from giving efficient relief to the really destitute; I know and believe the reverse. I could not state my opinion on this point in too strong language. I attribute the abuses in existence in a great measure to the Relieving Officers not being properly qualified for the office they hold, and to their having so much to do; that it is difficult, if not impossible, for them to attend to all they have to do. I allude especially to the Relieving Officer of the Castlebar Electoral Division; I consider that if his duties were properly performed, and proper inquiry made by him as to the applicants, that no one man could perform the duties. I believe it is the duty of the Relieving Officer to make inquiry at the applicant's residence as to their state; and I know, without fear of contradiction, that such has not been the case except in some few instances. I believe there has been little or no inquiry made as to the real state of the applicants, or such as would enable the Relieving Officer or other parties properly to judge of the truth of the applicant's own story; and I think that if such inquiries had been made, that it would have prevented many of the abuses that now exist.

If all the cases were investigated in the same manner that the case of Pat. Kilcoyne's, which I brought before the Board on last Saturday, were investigated into in the same manner, that they would be found equally correct; and that very many poor creatures would be found not to receive relief, and many receiving it who were not fit objects for receiving relief. Whatever is the cause of it, or whatever way it has happened, there are a multitude of cases of persons receiving relief that should not; also numbers of persons not getting relief that should. I cannot mind my business from the numbers of persons that are applying to me in the most wretched state of distress who are not getting relief; there is more bread cut up and given out to such creatures in our house than is consumed by our family, to try and get rid of them. The numbers of beggars have greatly increased. I consider that the amount of destitution in this Electoral Division extends to a greater extent this year than it did last year. Last year the people had a good deal of earning from the Public Works, and they had some means of their own for the first two or three months. This year they have had little or nothing; turnips have been their principal support; employment is more general this year than last; I am not reckoning the employment under the Labour Rate Act. Lord Lucan and the town-people give more employment than they did last year; Mr. Stoney also gives a good deal of employment. I give employment to a number of persons, who with their families, including my own household, feeds sixty persons daily. Some of my workmen I have kept that I could have done without, to save them and their families from starvation. Very many complaints have been made to me as to the quality of the meal given out; some of the samples of the meal I saw were exceedingly bad—not fit for human use; this was meal supplied by the Contractor, Mr. Hynes, latterly. For the last month that he has issued, it appears to me to be better; what were issued for the last week is very good. The samples of the Commissariat Indian meal that I saw were of very good quality. I think the great cause of the abuses that exist is the incompetency of the Relieving Officers; not wilfully, but from their incompetency, and having too much to do in most cases. I think if the Commissioners were to order cooked food to be given in all cases that

that it would prevent a good deal of abuse. I was one of the first, if not the first, who paid the last rate in this Union; and I feel jealous and sorry that parties who are able to pay should not have been made to pay their rates. I paid 21*l.* 1*s.* 4½*d.*—all that was demanded of me; I also paid 8*l.* 15*s.* on a little property I held in Westport Union. I think it would be of the greatest advantage if poor-rate and county cess were placed on the landlords, the same way as the tithes are—the landlords charging proportionately more to their tenants for their holdings. I think it an exceeding hard case that the Guardians should levy 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound for the collection of any rate, when I would be ready to lodge it with the bank. It would make the law much more palatable if I could lodge the money with the Treasurer, and get the allowance of 2*s.* 6*d.* in the pound, or even if I felt that the Union got the full benefit of the money I paid, and that there was not 2*s.* 6*d.* paid to a person for merely demanding it from me.

Westport, 10 March 1848.

John Reid, sworn.—I am managing clerk to Messrs. Pinkerton and Thompson, who are Contractors for the supply of Indian meal for the use of the Workhouse, and for the meal for out-door relief in the Electoral Divisions of Westport, Islandeady and Aughagower; the contract was for two months; I do not recollect the exact date when it was taken; I think it was taken about five weeks ago; the price per ton was 9*l.*; for this we were to distribute what was required for out-door relief at Westport, in quantities varying from 7 lbs. to 56 lbs.; the Messrs. Thompson sent in a tender, which was accepted by the Vice-Guardians, but I do not know of any subsequent bond or contract being entered into; we get an order, directed to Messrs. Pinkerton and Thompson, from time to time, for so many tons of meal, from the Vice-Guardians for each Electoral Division; once a-week we get the order for each Electoral Division, but some weeks we get no order at all for out-door relief; the Relieving Officer attends at our store, and calls out the name of each person that is to get meal, and the quantity they are to get, on the distribution days; sometimes the Relieving Officer does not attend, but an assistant for him attends; the person called by the Relieving Officer or his asssistant then hands in a bag, and the quantity of meal stated by the Relieving Officer or his assistant that he or she is entitled to get is put in their bag; we then enter down on a paper the weight of meal put into each bag; [*See* list appended, marked (A.)]—we put no name; when the Relieving Officer has called over his book, we tot up the weight given them from our list; suppose he does not call out persons sufficient to get all the meal that was ordered, we only furnish our bill to the Vice-Guardians for what was really distributed, but this seldom occurs; in a case where a few stones more are called for by the Relieving Officer than we received an order from the Guardians for, the Relieving Officer gets that amount added to the order for the next week for us; we send no vouchers to the Guardians, we merely send in the bill of the amount of meal which the Guardians ordered, or that we distributed; the only check on us as to whether we distributed the amount of meal ordered by the Guardians is the Relieving Officer standing by; he compares his book with our list of weights; he does not compare every amount of weight put down in our list with his book, but he sees whether the total amount of our list of weights corresponds with the total amount of meal to be given by his book; he does not then sign our list or we his book; the list of weights is not sent in to the Guardians when we send in our bills; our bills go in weekly, and we were promised to be paid weekly; but the Guardians have not the means to pay us regularly weekly; we give out the meal once a-week to each of the Electoral Divisions I have mentioned; some weeks the Guardians do not order meal from us, but order it from Ballinrobe, from the Commissariat stores; I think, to the best of my belief, that some cases occur where parties called by the Relieving Officer do not answer to their names correctly, and where persons who are not entitled to the meal, put in bags for it and get it; but this occurred very seldom; I think if Messrs. Pinkerton and Thompson put the name as well as the amount given to the list of weights, and then sent it in to the Vice-Guardians with their bill, that it would be a good change; I think if tickets were given in by each person called by the Relieving Officer, and kept by the party who gives out the meal on them, and then sent to the Guardians with Messrs. Pinkerton and Thompson's bill, to be compared with the Relieving Officer's book, that it would tend greatly to prevent any danger of fraud in persons getting meal who were not entitled to it; there are two Electoral Divisions that get a distribution of the meal on one day (Aughagower and Islandeady), which is more than can be carefully attended to; I think there ought to be a day for the distribution of meal to each Electoral Division; Messrs. Pinkerton and Thompson, to the best of my belief, get the same for the meal they supply to the Workhouse, viz. 9*l.* a ton, as they do for the meal distributed for out-door relief, which is not much better, as they have to cart it to the Workhouse; I think we supply the Guardians with fourteen or eighteen tons a-week, between the Workhouse and out-door relief.

Paper referred to in Mr. Reid's Evidence.

(A.)

Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.	Cwt. qrs. lbs.
0 0 17½	0 0 17½	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 17½	0 1 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 21	0 0 10½	0 0 14
0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 24½	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 1 0	0 0 3½	0 1 21	0 0 7
0 1 21	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 1 10½	0 0 17½	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 1 10½	0 0 7	0 1 3½
0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 1 17½	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 14	0 1 14	0 0 7	0 1 7
0 1 17½	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 1 7	0 1 14	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7
0 0 3½	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 1 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 3½	0 1 10½	0 0 7	0 0 7
0 0 17½	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 1 24½	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 1 21	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 1 7	0 0 17½
0 0 7	0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 1 21	0 1 14	0 0 7	0 1 24½	0 0 14
0 0 24½	0 0 10½	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 1 14	0 1 7	0 1 0	0 0 14	
0 0 24½	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 1 14	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 17½	0 0 7	0 1 10½	0 0 21	0 1 7	0 0 14
0 1 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 1 21	0 0 21	0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 1 10½	0 1 7	0 1 7
0 0 7	0 0 7	0 1 7	0 0 3½	0 0 14	0 0 10½	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 1 14	0 0 14
0 1 21	0 0 7	0 1 21	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 1 14	0 1 0	0 0 14	
0 1 3½	0 0 14	0 0 10½	0 1 14	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 1 21	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 1 14	0 1 7	0 0 21
0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 1 3½	0 0 14	0 1 7
0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 1 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 1 17½	0 1 14	
0 0 10½	0 0 7	0 1 7	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 21	0 1 7	0 1 7
0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 0 17½	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 24½	0 0 7	0 1 14
0 1 7	0 1 17½	0 0 17½	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 17½	0 0 7	0 1 17½	0 0 7	0 0 7
0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 0 10½	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 21
0 1 24½	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 10½	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 1 10½	0 0 21	0 1 14
0 0 14	0 0 7	0 1 21	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 1 21	0 1 0
0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 10½	0 0 17½	0 0 14	0 1 14	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 3½	0 1 17½	0 1 21
0 1 21	0 0 21	0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 1 17½	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 1 21
0 0 7	0 0 7	0 1 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 17½	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 1 14	0 0 14
0 0 14	0 0 17½	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 1 3½	0 0 14	0 1 21	0 0 14	0 1 14	0 1 14	0 0 7
0 1 7	0 0 14	0 1 10½	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 1 0	0 1 7	0 0 24½	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 24½
0 0 7	0 1 7	0 1 14	0 0 21	0 0 17½	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 1 3½	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 10½
0 0 21	0 0 24½	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 24½	0 1 21	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 17½	0 0 14	0 0 17½
0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 1 14	0 1 7	0 1 21	0 1 24½	0 1 3½	0 0 21
0 0 21	0 1 17½	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 1 14	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 14
0 0 21	0 0 7	0 1 21	0 0 21	0 1 10½	0 0 7	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 3½	0 0 14	0 0 7
0 0 21	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 10½	0 0 10½	0 0 7	0 1 10½	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7
0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 1 17½	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 1 17½	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 21
0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 24½	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 1 7
0 0 14	0 0 10½	0 1 14	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 7
0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 24½	0 0 14	0 0 21	0 0 10½	0 1 7	0 0 7	0 1 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 14
0 0 21	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 10½	0 0 7	0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 24½	0 1 14	0 0 21
0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 1 14	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 14
0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 24½	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 17½
0 0 17½	0 1 21	0 1 0	0 0 7	0 0 17½	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 1 10½	0 1 7	0 0 24½	0 0 7	0 0 7
0 0 14	0 1 21	0 1 21	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 1 21	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 21	0 0 7
0 0 21	0 0 21	0 1 0	0 0 21	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 24½	0 1 21	0 1 7	0 1 3½	0 0 7
0 1 21	0 0 10½	0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 1 14	0 0 14	0 1 14	0 0 7	0 0 21	
0 1 14	0 1 14	0 1 7	0 0 7	0 0 17½	0 0 7	0 1 7	0 0 24½	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 2 14
0 1 7	0 0 21	0 1 21	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 0 17½	0 1 17½	0 0 21
0 0 7	0 0 21	0 0 24½	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 1 7	0 0 10½	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 1 17½	0 0 7	0 1 14
0 0 14	0 0 21	0 1 17½	0 0 14	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 24½	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 1 10½
0 0 7	0 0 21	0 1 10½	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 0 7	0 1 7	0 0 14	0 0 24½	0 0 21	0 0 7	0 1 7
	0 0 21	0 1 14	0 0 21		0 0 7	0 1 10½	0 1 7	0 0 10½		0 0 7	0 0 3½
9 2 7	0 0 24½	0 0 24½	0 0 14	7 3 3½	0 0 7	0 0 14	0 1 7	0 0 14	11 0 0	0 1 7	0 0 21
	0 0 21	0 0 14			0 0 21	0 0 21	0 1 21			0 1 7	0 0 17½
	0 0 21	0 0 7	8 0 7		0 0 7	0 0 24½	9 3 14	9 1 14		0 1 0	
	0 0 24½				0 0 24½					0 1 21	10 0 17½
	0 0 17½	11 2 17½								0 1 17½	
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	9 1 17½									11 3 14	

7 March 1848.

John C. Larminie, Esq., sworn.—I am at present Acting Secretary to the Grand Jury, and I reside near Castlebar; I have lived all my life in this county; my pursuits have brought me into contact with the people, so that I can to some extent form an opinion as to their state; I am connected with the Irish Re-productive Loan Fund, and Manager of the Local Association of it at Castlebar; the object of the Association was to grant loans on moderate terms to tradesmen and small farmers; the issue of loans has ceased for the last year, and the operations of the Association are now confined to the receiving of outstanding debts; the issue of loans has ceased, owing to the alarming stoppage of the re-payments of (on loans granted) the instalments; this I attribute, 1st., to the high price of provisions last year, the borrowers being obliged to expend in providing for the necessaries of life all their available resources, and having then no means to repay the instalments; in speaking of the class not now getting out-door relief, I consider that a portion of the produce of their farms has gone to meet the demands for rent and taxes, and they are now living on the residue of the provisions that they were not obliged to dispose of; and I do not consider that they would be safe parties to entrust loans of money to; I speak of those whom I would willingly have given loans to two years ago; I believe the class that I allude to, as they existed in former years, and that I state I would have given loans to, to be considerably reduced, and that some of them now stand in need of relief to enable them to support life; the small class of occupiers, those holding only a few acres of land, now that the turnips are exhausted, and any little produce that they had, I consider altogether dependent for the support of life on public relief, and the class of small occupiers I allude to form the most numerous

numerous class in this Union; to the increase of this class, owing to the subdivision of land, I attribute decidedly the present state of things as resulting from the failure of the potato; a considerable part of the class I allude to had some turnips and produce up to within the last two months; since that I presume they have been relieved under the Poor Law; I have no knowledge as to how far the relief afforded under the new Poor Law has been commensurate to the wants of the destitute, or the reverse; all I know is, that a considerable class in this Union if they did not get relief could not exist; I have no personal knowledge as to parties getting relief that do not require it; I have heard that there are, but I have had no opportunities of investigating the truth of such reports; I never attempted it; from my experience as acting on the finance committee last year, I can easily understand the difficulty of preventing the abuse of classes applying for it and obtaining it that do not deserve it; my experience on the finance committee was, that almost every person applied for relief; as an instance, I knew a man worth 100 *l.* that persevered in seeking relief until I put him off; I should consider, however, that if 20,000 persons were to receive relief now that it would be a greater number than ought to receive relief, considering the state of the people, and the state as compared with last year, and as compared with the population, which I believe has been considerably reduced by emigration and death; the calculation that I have made in my own mind as to the reduction of the population by those causes is, that it has been reduced one-eighth; the low price of provisions has operated to a great extent in reducing the extent of destitution, as compared with last year, especially in respect to tradespeople and townspeople; the works here under the Drainage and Landed Improvement Act have provided some labour near this town; I know of no other part of the Union, except the one I allude to on Lord Lucan's estate where this is the case; leaving the works I have mentioned out of the question, I know of nothing else that has increased or given a stimulus to the demand for labour; if the able-bodied persons who now get relief were to be given money, I think there would be great danger of their neglecting to cultivate the land, or seeking for work; but if they only get rations in cooked food, I think there would not be this danger, and that they would go and seek for work when the spring work commences; I am agent to a property containing eight villages, with a population of about 1,000; I have only heard of four or five families giving up their land in order to get relief, though I know some of them must be in distress.

Anthony Francis French, sworn.—I am a Relieving Officer in the Union of Castlebar for the Electoral Division of Ballyhean; I had Ballyhean and Ballintubber Electoral Divisions until about a month ago. It is about seventeen months since I was first appointed a Relieving Officer; Monday was the day of the week fixed for receiving applications, but one day was not enough at the first when the great pressure was; and when I had the two Electoral Divisions I had to visit them almost every day; I found one day sufficient for taking applications, with putting a few down now and then; since I lost Ballintubber Electoral Division I made inquiries in reference to the case of each applicant; I was not able to visit the residences of the applicants, that would have been impossible; I visited a few; the inquiries I chiefly made were, as to whether they had land, and as to their means. I made the inquiries from persons belonging to the neighbourhood of the applicant whom I thought I could depend upon; there must have been some imposition, but I am only surprised that there was so little considering the pressure and the extent of the two Electoral Divisions. The person who succeeded me in Ballintubber Electoral Division has been able to find very few to cancel of those I put on relief. I looked over the book; my chief difficulty was to find out who had and who had not more than a quarter of an acre of land. The applicants used generally to bring a certificate or letter of recommendation from their landlord or agent, as to their having land or not; in cases where neither a certificate nor recommendation was brought to me as to the party applying not holding land, I used to make inquiries myself, and if I found that they had no land or means, I used to put them on the book without reference as to whether they had or had not a certificate. Persons that I knew had land, and not fit objects for relief, I refused to take their applications down; in cases where I found that parties had tendered to the landlord all their holding except their cabin and quarter of an acre, and where the landlord refused to take the land thus offered to be given up, without the whole holding, house and all was given up, and that they would not cease to occupy without they tendered all, I considered such applicants as occupying the holding, and did not take down their applications. Many cases of this kind occurred. I recollect a man named Gibbons wishing to keep the cabin and quarter of an acre in spite of his landlord, who refused to take any without he got all the holding. I considered that man not a fit applicant, and did not take down his application, because I considered him holding all, when he did not tender the surrender to the landlord of all. I was clearly instructed by the Guardians merely to consider the question as to whether the applicants occupied quarter of an acre or not, without reference to a certificate from landlord or any other person. In a case where a tenant would tender the surrender of the whole of his holding to the landlord, and that the landlord refused to take it, I would take that man's application down, after making myself sure that he, the tenant, had done so, and lay it before the Guardians. In some cases of persons having certificates from landlords or agents, that they had surrendered their land, I made subsequent inquiries myself as to whether such was the case or not; and in some cases, after making inquiries, and finding all was not right, and that the party really occupied the land, I refused to take down the application. In some cases I depended on the certificate where I believed them to be right, but not in all cases.

I remember one middleman in particular, whose certificates to his tenants of having given up their land I doubted; I suspected collusion between the middleman and the tenant as to the giving up the land in order to get his tenants relief; and on making inquiries, I found some of them did occupy the land, and I consequently refused to take down their applications in my book. In Ballyhean Electoral Division out-door relief was authorized to about 1,000 or 1,100; by far the greater majority of the persons authorized to get relief in Ballyhean Electoral Division and Ballintubber, when it was part of my district, were parties entitled to relief under the Commissioners' order. The parties getting relief under the orders were obliged to perform a task of work for their allowance, viz., to break two boxes of stones per day. A great many were not able to break two boxes. I don't think there was any person put off the relief for not doing a sufficient quantity of work, but a great number was put off the relief for not going to the work at all. The Overseer was told to class the workers, and to require two boxes from some, a box and a half from some, and a box from others; but I cannot say whether these instructions were attended to; I rather think they were not; it was not my business to see as to whether the work was performed or not, or the instructions attended to; all I had to do was to see that these parties cancelled by the Board of Guardians on the report of the Overseer were put off the list. I cannot say how many were cancelled; in cases where I found persons cancelled for not coming to the work, and that these persons had been cancelled by mistake, being prevented by sickness from going to the work, I again put such persons on the list, and gave them relief. I did not in all cases report my so doing to the Guardians. In cases of parties who were cancelled for not coming to work, and who, after being cencelled, returned to the work, and continued at the work until the next week, I was authorized again to put them on the list, and to give them relief. In one Electoral Division, Ballintubber, when it was in my district, an Overseer was dismissed for not liking to say but that all the men were at work, and not having a sufficient complement of work to show for all the men he had; it was detected by Captain Farren, from the ordinary weekly examination of the labour books; and I have seen the Board of Guardians summarily dismiss other Overseers for the same faults. I am not present at the entire of the distribution of the meal each week myself. Mr. Thomas Burke, of Ballyhean, has contracted, and he distributes it. I am always there part of the day of the distribution; I can't say how long each day, particularly; it is not a pleasant place to be; the dust does not agree with me, but I feel myself responsible for the proper distribution of the meal; but I had every reliance on Mr. Burke. I furnish the distributor with a list, with the names and quantity each person is to get, and a number on it corresponding to the number in my application book. I do not give the parties who are to receive the meal, and whose names are put down on the list, any ticket; they merely come to the distributor, and answer to their names, and he then gives them the quantity allowed on the list. The first contractor I had was Mr. Dwyer, of Castlebar; he distributed in Castlebar for both the Electoral Divisions of Ballyhean and Ballintubber (this continued only one week). I sent him a list of all that was to get the relief and their numbers, and also gave each person a ticket to get their proper share, and to hand to Mr. Dwyer, and this was the order of the Guardians; but I do not give tickets now (or since that); I think not giving tickets a better way for me; I would not have given so many tickets, and I had no doubt but that Mr. Burke would distribute the meal right, and that he knew all the people as well as myself—better in fact. The Guardians gave me no orders or directions not to give tickets in Mr. Burke's case; I did so on my own responsibility. If I was to be shot I could not do it, as the pressure was too great; and if I thought I would have had so much to face, I would not for the salaries of all the Relieving Officers put together have undertaken it. After the distribution is over, I tot up and examine the list I furnish to Mr. Burke, the distributor, and then give him a certificate of all that he gave out. The people would come to complain to me if they did not get their full allowance from the contractor, if they missed a pound; my house is a very short distance from the place of distribution. Mr. Burke knows the parties so well that there is no danger of personation. Both Mr. Burke and his son attend at the distribution; and his son was issue clerk under the Relief Committee last year. In some cases I gave provisional relief, but not much; during the time of the snow I gave some. I think all the persons entitled to relief in Ballyhean are getting it; only a few come to me now to make application. There is not, or has not been, confusion at the place of distribution, only a little eagerness. I was not present at the distribution of the meal when Mr. Dwyer distributed it, as I have stated, in Castlebar; I then gave the persons, to receive the meal, tickets, as I have stated. My relief list is made to last week, but in some instances the amount of the weekly tots are not yet brought into the weekly expenditure-book; all would have been complete up to last week, but for an accident which occurred to me. I left the books at a gentleman's house on a wet night, last Monday, as I did not like to take them home in the wet that night; the gentleman left home, and I was not able to get the books until yesterday. I think there are a number of persons in Ballyhean clinging to land that will have to give it up in order to save their lives by getting relief; some holding land are half starved, and I know persons, with wheat and cabbage sown, having given up their land in order to get relief; they were left in their houses by the landlord in the cases I allude to; I can't say how much land the parties had, but one of those I allude to, told me that before the potato-rot came, he could have got 18 *l.* for his interest in his holding.

Westport,

Westport, 10 March 1848.

James William Fair, sworn.—I am Relieving Officer for the Electoral Division of Westport; I was appointed early in October, or the end of September last. Thursday I receive applications for relief, Friday I dispense relief, and on Tuesday I attend the Board of Guardians to get my application-book passed. I have given some provisional relief in cases of sudden and urgent necessity. The Guardians have always confirmed such; the cases I so gave relief in were not numerous. In every case in my power I make personal inquiries into the cases of the applicants; in some instances I make inquiries from the road stewards. From the number of applications, it was impossible that I could make personal or accurate inquiries in every case. The population of my district was, by the Census of 1841, 13,583; at least a third of them have applied for relief, but that number did not get relief; 3,399 are getting out-door relief; 754 under section 1 of the Act, 2,645 under section 2. I have had between 300 to 400 applications in a week from persons with others dependent on them, scattered over a district which is ten miles from Westport in one direction, and eight miles in another; I account for the numbers of beggars and wretched looking persons begging in the streets:—1st, that a number of persons who have land, and are not entitled to relief, not wishing to give it up, crowd into the town to seek for charity, and the crowding of persons not belonging to the district, but from all parts of the surrounding country is what makes my situation so very difficult; 2dly, owing to the relief being distributed for three Electoral Divisions in Westport, besides Westport Electoral Division, viz. Aughagower, Islandeady, and Kilmaclasser; many persons come in from these Electoral Divisions to be near the relief, and remain in the town or its neighbourhood, and some of them beg, although they receive relief; few in my district receiving relief come under my notice as begging; if I find that they do, I report them to the Guardians, and have them struck off the out-door list, or sent to the Poor-house; all cases that apply to me, that I have reason to believe are proper objects, get relief; notwithstanding my utmost exertions, I fear that cases of fraud and abuse exist in my district, and this conviction led me to consider it right to intimate to the Guardians, that it would be necessary for me to resign if I did not get an assistant, or if my district was not reduced; my books take me two days, working as much I can (all my books are complete, and made up to last Saturday); one day I attend distributing relief, one day receiving applications, one day I attend the Board of Guardians, so I have only one day and Sunday for making inquiries; I fear the numbers of applications will increase, and that then I will not be able at all to check abuse; I find a determination on the part of the people to surrender, and give up the occupation of their land, whether the landlords will take it or not, and in other cases I fear a collusion between the landlords and tenants, nominally to take up the land in order that the tenant may get relief, and so that the tenant may be in a better position afterwards to pay them rent; and from these causes I fear and foresee an increase of applications; as long as room can be kept in the house, it will tend to prevent an undue increase, for I see the salutary effects of the Workhouse as a test against abuses; but, owing to the little room in it, this check is restricted, and cannot continue; besides my duties as Relieving Officer, which bring me now in immediate contact with the people, I was inspector of relief lists and meal depôts under the relief committee of this Electoral Division last year; the destitution this year is not as great in extent as last year; some of the classes that were involved in destitution last year, are exempt from it this year; but the class that formerly depended on con-acre, and the smaller class of occupiers are now altogether destitute, and these form a very large number of the population in this district; the low prices of provisions do not affect this class, as they are wholly destitute of means to purchase at any price, and they cannot get employment at which to earn wages; I can safely say, that a fourth, at least, of the population, properly belonging to this Electoral Division, will require relief before the summer is over and the new crop comes in; besides the regular population of this division, numbers flock in from the surrounding districts, and many of these are on my books, and some, I fear, are getting relief in other districts also; they take a lodging, or put up in a part in the town or its vicinity, and where they are to day, they will not be to-morrow, and it is almost impossible for me to detect them; the fraud and lies I meet with it is almost impossible to contend against; whenever I can detect a fraud I always prevent relief, or have such cases, if getting it, struck off the list, and offered the Workhouse; all persons in employment can purchase food this year for half price, and will not this year, as long as employed, require relief in order to support themselves and families; my salary is 50 *l.* a year, but my duties, as Relieving Officer, take up all my time, and would take more if I had it; I attend the distribution of meal almost always; I have not been more than two or three days absent on the death of my mother; when I could not attend, I have paid a substitute to act in my place; I keep a store-book, which is a list of the names of those on out-door relief, with the number of the case in the application and report-book, and the quantity of meal they are entitled to receive for that week; I call out the name and the quantity the person is to get to the Distributor of the Contractor, and I put a check mark opposite the name as soon as I see the person receive the meal; in any case where I dreaded one person attempting to personate another, I refer back to my application and report-book, and I make the person tell me the names and ages of his family, and see that the statement corresponds with the application-book; I tot up the amount of meal the several persons are entitled to, and I see that corresponds with the list of the amount of meal distributed, which the person distributing keeps; the Distributor does not take a list of the names, but merely the quantity given into each bag; when the Contractors send in their bills I always examine them, and see that the quantities charged correspond with the

quantity checked off in my book as distributed, and I sign the Contractor's account before it is paid; when the meal is got from the Commissariat stores, I contract with some person for the carriage and distribution of it at a local store, and I keep the same check on him as I do with the Contractors that supply the meal, as I have already stated; and if there is any meal over after the day's distribution, I see it weighed, and put into my own store, and I certify the Distributor's bill to the Guardians for the quantity he has really distributed, and for which he is paid according to agreement; I believe that great frauds take place by collusion between fraudulent Contractors and Relieving Officers, and by Relieving Officers certifying that all the meal ordered was distributed, when it was not; in the case of Burke, a Relieving Officer for Islandeady and Kilmaclasser Electoral Divisions, he appointed his brother as a Contractor for the carriage and distribution of the Commissariat meal; the person by which the meal was distributed was, as I am informed, a fraudulent one; and Mr. Lynch, the Inspector, stated to the Board of Guardians, that on visiting the store he asked the Distributor if all the meal contained on the list had been distributed? that he (the Distributor) said it had been distributed; but that on examination of the house, he (Mr. Lynch) found 15 cwt. of it in the house that ought not to have been there if the proper quantity had been distributed; the Distributor was brought before the Petty Sessions and fined 5 *l.*, and the brother, the Relieving Officer, was called on to resign, and did so; I saw the Relieving Officer (Burke's) store-book, and all the persons to receive relief appeared to have been checked off as having received it; the only remedy I see is to employ only respectable Contractors and Relieving Officers, that would not be guilty of such frauds. The people are afraid to grumble for fear of the Relieving Officers; the first thing a fellow of the kind would do, if any attempted to grumble at what he or she got, would be to get them struck off the list, as having land, or being in some other way not entitled to relief.

---

8 March 1848.

William Hinds, sworn.—I am Contractor for the supply of Indian meal to the Workhouse, and for the out-door relief of the Breafy and Castlebar Electoral Divisions. The contract was taken about the 15th or 21st of December; it was for two months, at 10*l.* a ton, to be paid weekly. Since that, the only agreement I entered into was to offer, in writing, to supply Castlebar and Breafy Electoral Divisions with meal for the out-door relief for this week, at 9 *l.* 10 *s.*; from first to last it was understood to be for cash. The tender or letter I allude to was sent to the Guardians yesterday; the answer I got was two orders—one for 21 cwt. for Breafy, and about six tons for Castlebar. For the tender I sent in, in December, and that was accepted, I had to distribute the meal at my own shop; each week I got an order regularly to issue so much meal from the Guardians. I distributed the quantity of meal I was ordered by the Guardians to distribute, to the parties who brought me tickets from the Relieving Officer. The tickets were marked with the name of the person, and to receive a certain amount of meal, and signed and dated by the Relieving Officer. I was sent a paper by the Guardians to show the names and numbers of the persons I was to give relief to. I gave meal to parties who were not in the schedule sent to me by the Guardians, on orders or tickets of the Relieving Officers. I never kept the tickets brought in by the applicants until the last distribution; I kept all the last tickets, owing to the constant change of Relieving Officers, and because I was going to deal with a new man. When I gave meal to an applicant, I put the figure of 8 opposite the name of the person I gave the meal to; this I did latterly, but at first I put different marks, viz. ✓. When I would bring an account or bill of the amount I distributed to the Relieving Officer, he would mark it correct; and then I would hand in an account to the Guardians of the amount, and demand money for it. I sent in no vouchers or accounts except a bill like this (B.); I send in the bill every week.

The Relieving Officer used to frequently come in to knock some names off the list, and put others on the list, when I was distributing; but he used not to stay with me, or be present while I was distributing. I would have been very glad if the Relieving Officer had stayed with me. There was often alterations made in the list or schedule first furnished me by the Relieving Officer; he would, as I said, put some on and off; there were often persons names put on the list by me when they would come in with a ticket; to my knowledge I never put any one down that had not a ticket. As great a confusion as ever was seen occurred at the distribution; I will swear that 30 or 40 voices would be roaring out together; I could not describe the scenes of confusion. I did not enter in a bond and contract for the contract I made last December; I offered good security; no written document was perfected; all the perfection was in the book. I got no instructions to keep the tickets of the applicants I gave relief to; and I only kept them the last distribution for the reasons already stated. I swear I am distressed for money; that the Guardians owe me some hundreds of pounds; I am disgusted both with the delivery and the mode of payment. There is no doubt in the world but that great mistakes have occurred, owing to the confusion at the delivery; it was impossible to tell which was which, or whose bag was thrust in; the cry of "This is my bag," "That is my bag," was incessant; the right quantity was put into each bag, according to the ticket pinned; but I can say no such thing as that each person got their own or the right bag. The tickets, as I did not keep them, might have been thrust in again, and often were; and I used to initial the tickets, and put the date Parties might have got meal twice on the same ticket, but not to my knowledge; they would say or do anything; some strong fellows would snap up 30 or 40 bags and deliver them to their friends.

DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO.

1848. (B.)

The Board of Vice-Guardians, paid officers, for Indian meal supplied to Breafy District, week ending 4th March 1848.

To William Hynes, Dr.

	£.	s.	d.
To 21 cwt. Indian meal, 10 *s.* - - - - - - - -	10	10	–

Examined and found correct,

Andrew Ranahan, Relieving Officer,
Breafy Electoral Division.

(Copy.)

Patrick Flinn, Clerk of the Union.

CASTLEBAR UNION.

No. 13. 26 February 1848.

Breafy District.

Give Mr. Andrew Ranahan, Relieving Officer, 21 cwt. Indian meal.

Patrick Flinn, Clerk.
Wm. Robt. Leckey, Chairman.

To Mr. William Hynes.

(Copy.)

Patrick Flinn, Clerk of the Union.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES.

Saturday, 18 December 1847.

Contracts on tenders for Indian meal have been accepted from the following persons for two months. They are to make the distribution in the several Electoral Divisions :—

Castlebar, Breafy, } William Hynes, of Castlebar, at 10 *l.* per ton.

Addergoole, Islandeady, Balla, Drum, Turlough, Strade, } Mr. Charles Malley, of Castlebar, at 10 *l.* 7 *s.* 6 *d.* per ton.

Also for the use of the Workhouse from said William Hynes, at 10 *l.* per ton.

Patrick Flinn, Clerk of the Union.

7 March 1848.

Appendix O.

RETURN of the Amount of the Poor Law and Townland Valuations of the several Poor Law Unions in Twenty-five Counties in *Ireland*, arranged in Counties; showing the Proportional Difference between the two Valuations in each Union separately.

UNIONS.	Population in 1841.	Persons Rated.		Area Rated.		Poor Law Valuation of Union.	General Townland Valuation.	Poor Law Valuation higher than Townland Valuation in the Pound.	Poor Law Valuation lower than Townland Valuation in the Pound.
		Number of Occupiers Rated.	Number of Hereditaments under £. 4 Rated on immediate Lessors.	Number of Acres Rated on Occupiers.	Number of Acres Rated on immediate Lessors.				
FIRST GROUP.						£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
LONDONDERRY:									
Londonderry	67,740	5,702	1,226	134,259	3,922	111,959 – –	80,082 19 8	7 11	—
Newtownlimavady	39,058	3,490	767	142,342	3,098	65,630 17 8	48,898 18 –	6 10	—
Coleraine	52,704	4,718	1,746	101,558	3,623	76,410 10 –	60,843 7 3	5 1	—
Magherafelt	80,816	7,766	3,568	119,592	15,170	75,339 1 –	61,563 10 –	4 5	—
ANTRIM:									
Ballycastle	26,020	3,597	733	102,743	3,606	39,160 5 –	27,859 7 5	8 1	—
Ballymoney	48,812	5,428	2,398	103,871	2,872	73,086 12 6	55,569 7 5	6 3	—
Larne	38,758	5,013	1,558	228,348	2,725	72,437 15 –	59,990 8 7	4 2	—
Ballymena	74,022	6,391	4,745	140,917	13,270	97,492 – –	70,412 13 9	7 8	—
Antrim	49,168	4,336	5,013	108,260	4,082	100,611 15 –	75,147 19 9	6 9	—
Belfast (1)	100,992	7,170	8,104	44,818	416	271,915 11 –	133,822 11 7	20 8	—
Lisburn	75,444	7,148	6,917	111,573	5,009	136,397 12 10	97,095 15 4	8 1	—
DOWN:									
Newtownards	60,165	5,372	7,983	90,276	3,078	118,469 3 –	76,778 11 10	10 10	—
Downpatrick	74,938	10,769	6,958	140,977	3,303	167,393 5 –	129,304 12 9	7 10	—
Kilkeel	28,638	3,461	1,767	40,213	4,553	36,931 6 –	26,030 12 7	8 4	—
Newry	95,541	9,664	8,168	107,659	21,908	129,651 – –	94,518 15 7	7 5	—
Banbridge	87,323	8,577	8,663	114,411	8,230	123,970 15 –	95,064 11 4	6 1	—
ARMAGH:									
Lurgan	71,128	5,840	7,501	63,035	6,537	92,682 8 –	66,655 8 6	7 10	—
Armagh	110,408	12,605	7,304	134,775	6,179	174,572 7 –	128,241 12 8	7 2	—
TYRONE:									
Cookstown	46,455	5,258	2,296	81,999	7,814	56,550 12 –	41,908 19 9	6 10	—
Dungannon	70,000	7,298	3,413	91,293	11,181	90,330 14 9	59,760 12 9	10 2	—
Clogher	39,801	3,604	2,223	79,876	17,156	42,275 19 2	38,119 3 7	2 2	—
Omagh	69,099	7,292	1,944	122,284	15,542	75,354 5 –	58,218 14 7	4 7	—
Gortin	18,747	1,735	686	92,082	17,755	15,721 12 2	12,154 11 –	5 11	—
Strabane	58,883	5,623	1,329	128,860	3,356	81,529 6 4	58,288 6 9	8 –	—
Castlederg	21,368	1,988	493	79,874	10,959	21,790 2 6	16,900 10 7	5 9	—
SECOND GROUP.									
DONEGAL:									
Dunfanaghy	18,571	921	2,081	48,530	31,007	10,543 9 8	7,339 5 7	8 8	—
Glenties	43,571	711	6,114	77,911	227,768	16,330 5 –	14,245 9 11	3 –	—
Donegal	41,371	2,448	3,670	84,333	59,924	31,639 – 3	25,291 12 6	5 –	—
Ballyshannon	43,403	4,061	8,697	99,541	23,360	51,435 12 5	39,461 8 –	4 8	—
Stranorlar	25,786	2,166	2,584	87,230	33,298	29,402 5 –	24,861 12 1	3 9	—
Letterkenny	25,921	2,482	2,420	87,055	15,607	31,835 12 1	25,739 2 2	4 9	—
Milford	38,108	3,067	4,167	83,417	22,330	31,377 8 6	22,031 9 5	8 5	—
Innishowen	43,569	3,225	2,991	63,456	24,813	36,607 – –	29,143 19 1	5 1	—
FERMANAGH:									
Lowtherstown	34,963	3,371	1,529	65,687	5,983	43,944 2 –	29,115 8 –	10 2	—
Enniskillen	81,534	7,416	4,227	181,477	40,437	96,108 15 5	82,792 – 9	3 3	—
Lisnasken	37,920	4,573	886	77,132	3,011	46,919 15 6	41,129 9 10	2 10	—
CAVAN:									
Cavan	97,271	13,364	3,587	145,583	8,798	127,282 5 6	107,796 8 6	3 –	—
Cootehill	67,178	6,292	2,709	89,495	10,569	73,490 4 –	66,665 12 7	2 –	—
Bailieborough	49,385	6,851	1,590	78,877	8,579	52,156 19 6	50,271 15 9	– 9	—
MONAGHAN:									
Clones	42,320	3,894	2,454	55,353	8,161	55,055 19 –	35,908 17 6	10 8	—
Monaghan	69,559	10,537	1,752	104,835	5,555	94,431 5 –	69,664 – 2	7 1	—
Castleblaney (2)	58,945	5,579	2,818	74,032	11,174	65,473 – –	79,132 8 10	– –	3 5
Carrickmacross	39,729	3,534	2,640	49,603	8,486	46,325 16 5	42,889 12 7	1 7	—
LOUTH:									
Dundalk	65,509	5,144	4,402	83,806	11,599	106,680 11 1	93,075 13 11	2 11	—
Ardee	43,348	4,194	1,263	94,773	2,037	93,047 6 8	91,337 17 8	– 4	—
Drogheda	52,251	7,351	3,417	97,266	12,117	136,604 3 3	105,803 13 4	5 10	—
LONGFORD:									
Granard	55 130	6,865	2,185	100,007	5,000	87,209 – –	83,176 17 6	1 –	—
Longford	87,757	8,348	7,503	136,364	10,789	124,496 18 4	109,352 13 10	2 5	—

(1) Owing to the great increase of the buildings of Belfast since the general valuation was made, the omission of all houses under 5 *l.* in annual value, and the high price paid for accommodation land, the general valuation of this Union is much lower in proportion, as compared with the Poor Law Valuation, than others of the same district. This Union has in consequence been excluded from the general average.

(2) Poor Law Valuation lower in proportion to rents than in any other Union in Ireland.

UNIONS.	Population in 1841.	Persons Rated.		Area Rated.		Poor Law Valuation of Union.	General Townland Valuation.	Poor Law Valuation higher than Townland Valuation in the Pound.	Poor Law Valuation lower than Townland Valuation in the Pound.
		Number of Occupiers Rated.	Number of Here-ditaments under £. 4 Rated on immediate Lessors.	Number of Acres Rated on Occupiers.	Number of Acres Rated on immediate Lessors.				
SECOND GROUP—*continued.*									
WESTMEATH:						£. s. d.	£. s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Athlone	72,168	10,822	5,264	138,525	11,998	103,078 15 –	91,385 15 9	2 5	—
Mullingar	73,272	6,230	5,600	210,446	4,629	190,944 6 7	171,522 4 8	2 3	—
MEATH:									
Oldcastle	48,373	3,599	2,126	96,245	5,120	79,721 5 –	73,038 17 –	1 10	—
Kells	45,282	3,045	3,439	109,382	1,558	123,339 4 9	90,498 – 3	7 3	—
Navan	35,831	2,326	3,939	90,834	1,950	101,527 15 –	97,345 10 3	– 10	—
Trim	34,411	1,773	1,352	103,960	2,373	100,634 9 –	97,111 7 9	– 9	—
KILDARE:									
Naas	52,228	3,962	4,444	173,662	8,201	135,232 7 –	125,517 5 3	1 6	—
Athy	47,912	3,700	4,520	144,376	8,086	102,881 16 6	83,410 17 11	3 9	—
KING'S COUNTY:									
Edenderry	34,679	2,372	3,572	111,692	4,181	98,634 2 –	71,733 19 6	7 6	—
Tullamore	53,905	5,227	4,708	109,509	9,501	86,516 12 –	82,390 10 6	1 –	—
QUEEN'S COUNTY:									
Mountmellick	67,874	4,721	8,162	149,279	22,455	89,914 11 11	79,026 – 9	2 9	—
Abbeyleix [1]	41,230	3,258	2,932	102,738	4,052	66,759 6 –	70,417 2 6	– –	1 – ½
CARLOW:									
Carlow	78,086	10,823	4,606	187,354	9,050	179,037 8 –	147,429 8 –	4 3	—
WICKLOW:									
Baltinglass	40,687	3,359	2,084	145,323	3,235	90,888 10 –	64,358 13 6	5 10	—
Shillelagh	34,800	4,215	1,441	101,375	2,694	64,485 – –	50,992 7 7	5 1	—
Rathdrum	56,709	4,031	4,202	218,868	4,241	153,246 – –	111,217 14 10	7 7	—
WEXFORD:									
Gorey	39,054	4,346	2,245	126,554	1,170	94,001 8 11	82,467 2 2	2 9	—
Enniscorthy [2]	61,652	6,343	5,303	185,394	7,630	126,921 9 11	128,815 13 5	– –	– 4
Wexford	53,401	6,196	4,032	118,399	4,591	113,714 10 –	95,644 15 –	3 9	—
New Ross [3]	74,923	6,018	3,605	187,979	13,032	109,748 3 –	115,409 6 3	– –	1 –
THIRD GROUP.									
SLIGO:									
Sligo	111,054	9,478	8,852	170,408	20,771	142,030 5 –	123,051 12 2	3 1	—
LEITRIM:									
Mohill	68,859	5,543	6,169	82,378	24,346	57,778 10 5	50,196 16 4	3 –	—
Carrick-on-Shannon	67,077	4,522	5,730	76,195	27,109	61,450 2 4	55,776 11 6	2 5	—
Manorhamilton	45,990	7,604	1,311	147,180	12,428	47,284 19 9	39,891 19 9	4 2	—
ROSCOMMON:									
Boyle	71,355	5,943	5,224	112,630	22,099	81,408 18 –	70,736 1 5	3 –	—
Castlerea	92,864	7,082	9,432	140,314	33,389	114,349 18 6	94,559 16 9	4 2	—
Roscommon [4]	83,437	4,142	8,701	101,299	33,315	85,873 4 –	99,209 11 2	– –	2 8
MAYO:									
Ballina	120,787	5,758	17,632	234,893	213,731	95,774 2 –	94,686 14 3	– 3	—
Castlebar	61,063	3,450	6,761	83,142	72,382	50,981 9 2	45,951 2 7	2 2	—
Westport [5]	77,952	1,909	11,213	100,374	141,452	38,876 – –	40,308 19 6	– –	– 8
Ballinrobe [5]	85,031	4,388	10,029	111,700	64,178	85,217 4 –	91,652 6 9	– –	1 6
Swineford [5]	73,529	3,020	9,647	55,838	69,280	46,016 8 –	50,184 9 2	– –	1 8
GALWAY:									
Ballinasloe	99,026	7,692	7,043	193,809	25,637	151,644 14 –	13,082 5 9	3 2	—
Tuam [6]	74,974	10,196	– –	191,413	– –	86,236 – 2	86,614 13 –	– –	– 1
Galway	88,973	9,011	4,001	188,830	12,258	100,777 10 –	71,273 19 11	8 5	—
Clifden [7]	33,465	6,578	– –	– –	– –	22,426 13 –	13,783 15 3	12 7	—
Loughrea	71,774	5,703	4,361	131,774	20,496	91,007 6 6	72,787 12 5	5 –	—
Gort	43,543	4,817	1,875	98,936	8,789	53,037 1 2	48,602 15 2	1 10	—
CLARE:									
Ennistymon	49,935	4,281	2,700	149,190	15,882	67,486 17 –	63,472 3 –	1 3	—
Ennis [8]	77,840	7,164	2,894	180,297	17,924	101,222 9 6	108,353 4 7	– –	1 4
Kilrush [8]	82,353	6,109	2,857	125,151	18,814	59,449 8 6	66,211 3 7	– –	2 3
Scariff [8]	53,563	5,329	2,577	96,487	12,488	44,609 12 –	47,791 – 1	– –	1 4

[1] Poor Law Valuation very low. [2] Poor Law Valuation very low. [3] Poor Law Valuation very low.
[4] Poor Law Valuation very low. [5] Poor Law Valuation very low. [6] Poor Law Valuation low.
[7] Poor Law Valuation much higher than usual, probably owing to the value of sea-weed being added to the value of the land.
[8] Poor Law Valuation very low as compared to rents.

General Valuation Office, Dublin,
16 February 1849.

R. Griffith,
Commissioner of Valuation,
6 & 7 Will. 4, c. 84, and 9 & 10 Vict. c. 110.

Appendix P.

CIRCULAR conveying Opinions given by Mr. Henn, in Reply to Queries on a Surrender of Land under the Quarter-Acre Clause.

Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin,
15 February 1848.

Sir,

The attention of the Commissioners for administering the Laws for Relief of the Poor in Ireland having been directed to cases arising under Section 10 of the Irish Poor Relief Extension Act, (10 Vic. c. 31,) in which applicants for relief who held more than a quarter of a statute acre of land had offered to surrender the land to the landlord or his agent, who, however, refused to accept the surrender unless the applicant also gave up a house held with the land, which the applicant refused to do; to cases in which an unsuccessful attempt has been made by the occupier to surrender his land, even though no such condition was attached to the proposed surrender as that above mentioned; and to cases in which the husband being absent from Ireland in search of employment, the wife and children continue in the occupation of his cabin and land, in which cases relief has been refused by Boards of Guardians on the ground that the wife could not effect a legal surrender, though willing and desirous to do so; the Commissioners have deemed it right to submit a case to Counsel for his opinion on the subject. A copy of the Questions put to Counsel, together with the Opinion of Mr. Henn, Q.C., thereon, are now transmitted herewith for the information and guidance of the Guardians in regard to the administration of relief in such cases; and the Commissioners desire to observe, that the Attorney-General for Ireland agrees in the opinion given by Mr. Henn.

By Order of the Commissioners,

W. Stanley,
Secretary.

To the Clerk
of the _____ Union.

QUESTIONS AND OPINION ABOVE REFERRED TO.

QUERIES.	OPINION.
1. Whether the refusal of the surrender by the Landlord disqualifies a destitute person from receiving relief under the section of the Act above recited?	1. I think not, provided the party applying does not continue in the occupation of land of greater extent than the quarter of a statute acre.
2. Whether a person occupying more than a quarter of an acre of land would be excluded from relief by the provisions of that section, in consequence of a legal incapacity to surrender the land?	2. I think a person continuing to occupy such quantity is excluded by the statute, whether capable of legally surrendering his interest in the land or not. The Guardians are not, in any case, compelled to grant out-door relief. They may always exercise a discretion where the party applying is one to whom such relief may be granted, and grant relief to such person, either in or out of the Workhouse, as to them shall appear fitting; but in cases coming within the 10th section, the Guardians are prohibited from grantiug any relief, either in or out of the Workhouse. In my opinion, the occupation or non-occupation of the quantity of land mentioned is made the criterion of destitution, and the Guardians are warranted in relieving any person who is not in such occupation, and they are not bound to investigate title at all, or ascertain whether the tenant's interest has been legally determined by surrender or otherwise. (signed) *J. Henn.* 2nd February 1848. 16, Upper Merion-street.

A TABLE EXHIBITING THE SOCIAL CONDITION OF IRELAND AND ITS PROVINCES, IN WHICH THE RELATIVE PRODUCE, RESOURCES, AND DESTITUT

UNIONS.	HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.				HOLDINGS.												AREA.						CROP OF 1847.																		STOCK IN 1847.								TOTAL Value of Stock and Crop. ‖	VALUATION.		
					Number and Size of all Holdings.						Small Holdings rated under £. 5.						Division of Land.						Land under Crop, 1847.						Weight of Crop.			Value of Crop, 1847. †						Number and Value of Stock. ‡															
					Under One Acre.	Above 1 to 5 Acres.	Above 5 to 15 Acres.	Above 15 to 30 Acres.	Above 30 Acres.	TOTAL.	Not greater than £. 1.	From £. 1 to £. 2.	From £. 2 to £. 3.	From £. 3 to £. 4.	From £. 4 to £. 5.	TOTAL not above £. 5.	Arable Land.	Uncultivated Land.	Under Plantations.	Under Water.	In Towns.	TOTAL Area.	Under Grain Crops.	Under Green Crops.	Under Flax.	Under Meadow and Clover.	Total under Crop.	Proportion of Arable Land under Crop.	Weight of Grain produced.	Weight of Potatoes produced.	Weight of Green Crops produced.	Value of Grain produced.	Value of Potatoes produced.	Value of Green Crops produced.	Value of Flax produced.	Value of Meadow produced.	TOTAL Value of Crops produced.	Horses and Mules.	Asses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	Goats.	Poultry.	TOTAL Value of Stock.			Ordnance Valuation.	Poor Law Valuation.
Col. 1.	Col. 2.	Col. 3.	Col. 4.	Col. 5.	Col. 6.	Col. 7.	Col. 8.	Col. 9.	Col. 10.	Col. 11.	Col. 12.	Col. 13.	Col. 14.	Col. 15.	Col. 16.	Col. 17.	Col. 18.	Col. 19.	Col. 20.	Col. 21.	Col. 22.	Col. 23.	Col. 24.	Col. 25.	Col. 26.	Col. 27.	Col. 28.	Col. 29.	Col. 30.	Col. 31.	Col. 32.	Col. 33.	Col. 34.	Col. 35.	Col. 36.	Col. 37.	Col. 38.	Col. 39.	Col. 40.	Col. 41.	Col. 42.	Col. 43.	Col. 44.	Col. 45.	Col. 46.	Col. 47.	Col. 48.		Col. 49.
	1st Class.	*2d Class.*	*3d Class.*	*4th Class.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*		*Tons.*	*Tons.*	*Tons.*	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	£.	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	£.	£.	£.	*s.*	*d.*	£.
Ennis					1403	1125	2668	2037	1974	9207	933	916	759	634	548	3790						212736	22513	5836	26	12065	40440		17810	8790½	72230	154425	35160	72230	468	50672	312955	4327	2062	27918	38009	7057	1753	67213	252765	565720	108748	11	–	101222
Ennistymon	Not distinguished in Census of 1841				367	750	1974	1452	1238	5781	711	607	624	648	575	3165	No return given which distinguishes the Unions					174839	11319	2158	12	6920	20409		9257	8859½	15469	74696	35437	15469	216	23528	149346	2296	1468	19084	33687	3566	1557	32236	173433	322779	63472	3	–	67486
Kilrush					561	1542	3168	2393	1235	8899	819	970	963	867	932	4551						178935	30272	4485	62	7808	42627		23846	19433	33560	184399	77732	33560	1116	37478	334285	5545	1717	23327	14032	5885	1340	66471	209105	543390	66179	4	7	59449
Scariff					558	975	2461	1514	1424	6932	1380	632	398	339	298	3047						168048	12735	4027	25	6674	23461		10602	9406⅔	62376	92872	37626	62376	450	22690	216014	3146	1800	15833	12310	5251	2176	54214	142469	358483	§44213	8	–	44609
Union Total *					2889	4392	10271	7396	5871	30819	3843	3125	2744	2488	2353	14553						734558	76839	16506	125	33467	126937		61515	46489⅓	183635	506392	185955	183635	2250	134368	1012600	15313	7047	86162	98038	21759	6826	220134	777772	1790372	282613	6	7	272766
County Clare	7 in 100	10·8 in 100	31·7 in 100	56·8 in 100	3088	4713	11018	8035	6048	32902							455009	296033	8304	728	67920	827994	83045	18570	161	35736	137512	1 acre in 3·5-10	66668	49628⅓	208303	551917	198514	208303	2898	151920	1185552	16289	7534	91766	104175	24103	7421	238682	829302	2014854	314286	17	7	301309
Ballyshannon					222	513	1809	1368	1134	5046	657	700	731	631	469	3188						135772	10710	2347	362	7576	20995		7941	6797	18684	59684	27188	18684	6516	24242	136314	1634	613	19999	2945	1008	143	21481	138315	274629	$33104	8	9	51435
Donegal					295	816	2179	1275	948	5513	299	953	931	722	536	3441						157841	11354	2397	194	5665	19610		8109	4089½	18993	55683	16359	18993	3492	14728	109255	2081	428	16031	8522	867	176	23369	123402	232657	25816	10	6	31639
Dunfanaghy					44	678	1148	378	480	2728	752	805	443	293	164	2457						125119	6374	1584	227	422	8607		4595	6726	12062	30422	26904	12062	4086	1434	74908	1747	41	4851	6242	279	479	10183	50116	125024	7329	15	2	10543
Glenties	Not distinguished in Census of 1841				84	504	2221	1598	2144	6551	2203	2052	1090	554	236	6135	No return given which distinguishes the Unions					260578	9728	3149	20	14596	27493		5813	10467¼	13682	40691	41870	13682	360	61140	157743	2062	191	15470	16692	647	582	23058	127730	285473	14137	15	9	16380
Innishowen					627	761	2560	1407	943	6298	375	797	951	823	786	3732						159322	21680	3975	581	875	27111		14375	16640¼	27771	97064	62561	27771	10458	2974	200828	4933	66	17558	21661	1547	119	30198	169249	370077	29016	2	6	36607
Letterkenny					103	125	658	879	1089	2854	1224	648	483	400	273	3028						102327	13651	2936	1556	1529	19672		10558	5127½	37741	70121	20511	37741	28008	5504	161885	2324	23	9674	3407	589	168	14629	81218	243103	25654	–	4	31835
Milford					211	539	1634	1253	877	4514				not given								110051	15722	3756	1236	789	21503		8074	5103¼	23946	55319	20413	23946	22248	1262	123188	3669	186	10932	10284	1332	456	19232	107665	230853	21986	16	4	31377
Stranorlar					150	254	922	945	919	3190	894	669	643	409	268	2883						121136	14564	3255	1523	4381	23723		10769	6378¼	32413	71762	25514	32413	27414	13142	170245	1883	27	13430	7362	341	126	21747	104038	274283	23566	18	9	29402
Union Total *					1736	4190	13131	9103	8534	36694	6404	6624	5272	3832	3732	24864						1172146	103783	23399	5699	35833	168714		70234	60330	185292	480746	241320	185292	102582	124426	1134366	20333	1575	107945	77115	6610	2249	163897	901733	2036699	180612	8	1	239168
County Donegal	7 in 100	12·3 in 100	39·9 in 100	47·1 in 100	2390	4212	13043	9067	8855	37567							393191	769587	7079	479	23107	1193443	128359	29556	10973	33990	202888	1 acre in 1 9-10	88238	72779	281729	608414	291116	281729	197514	127618	1506391	23966	1266	112785	81488	7568	2483	186974	965837	2472228	225049	–	–	276884
Ulster	9 in 100	19·6 in 100	43·8 in 100	35·7 in 100	13935	39785	101030	57587	39499	251836							3407539	1764370	79783	214956	8790	5475438	1116511	216601	53701	263149	1649962	1 acre in 2	826167	642640½	2041648	5840375	2570563	2041648	966618	979474	12398678	155597	22239	834874	238493	111733	40891	1567587	6701678	19100356	2533281	–	–	3320133
Leinster	2·4 in 100	19·4 in 100	44·3 in 100	33·9 in 100	23979	34988	44012	31565	38913	173457							3961188	731886	115944	51624	15569	4876211	975583	205731	1644	451339	1634297	1 acre in 2·4-10	788893	502499½	2053924	6560047	2009999	2053924	29592	1724964	12378526	175698	34598	669320	743823	205010	42492	1674039	6503552	18882078	– – not yet finished –		4624542	
Munster	1·1 in 100	12·6 in 100	33·7 in 100	52·6 in 100	24212	28671	47957	41441	54650	196931							3874613	1893477	130415	151381	14693	6064579	823022	230874	1156	315848	1370900	1 acre in 2	636053	681993½	1997041	5617501	2727837	1997041	20808	1264250	11627437	160305	32289	729819	608124	261243	60999	1684775	6682705	18310142			3777103	
Connaught	·5 in 100	8·1 in 100	39·3 in 100	52·1 in 100	10890	35597	76535	33744	24035	180801							2220960	1906002	48340	212864	3877	4392043	398463	74532	1811	108610	583416	1 acre in 3·8-10	297390	221095¼	644336	2233418	884381	644336	32598	411946	4206679	66317	37229	357402	595737	44473	19661	764654	3379867	7586546	1334438	–	–	1465643
IRELAND	1·4 in 100	16·3 in 100	41·5 in 100	40·7 in 100	73016	139041	269534	164337	157097	803025	180946	164357	117812	90824	76027	629966	13464300	6295735	374482	630825	42929	20808271	3313579	727738	58312	1138946	5238575	1 acre in 2·5-10	2548503	2048195	6736949	20251341	8192780	6736949	1049616	4380634	40611320	557917	126355	2591415	2186177	622459	164043	5691055	23267802	63879122	– – not yet published –			13187422

NOTE.—Col. 2 to 5.—From Census Report of 1841.
„ 6 to 11.—From Agricultural Returns for 1847.
„ 12 to 17.—From Landlord and Tenant Commission Report, Appendix, No. 93.
„ 18 to 23.—From Mr. Griffith and Ordnance Survey.
„ 24 to 32.—From Agricultural Returns for 1847, "Crops."
„ 33 to 38.—Based upon the previous data.
„ 39 to 45.—From Agricultural Returns for 1847, "Stock."

Col. 48 to 49.—From the respective Valuations.
„ 50 to 51.—From Census of 1841.
„ 52 to 62.—Calculated from preceding data.
„ 63 to 69.—Commissioners' Report, May 1st, 1848.
„ 70. —Commissioners' Report, May 1st, 1846.
„ 71 to 72.—Calculated from preceding data.

* The difference between the Totals of the "Unions" and of the "Counties" results from portions of both Counties being contained in Unions situated in other Counties; viz.—£. 63,724 of Poor Law Valuation of Donegal in Londonderry and Strabane Unions, and £. 32,886 of Poor Law Valuation of Clare in Limerick and Gort Unions; whilst there is included in the Ballyshannon Union £. 26,011 of Poor Law Valuation situated in Fermanagh and Leitrim, and in the Scariff Union £. 4,346 of Poor Law Valuation situated in Galway; the fractional parts of a pound are omitted. The difference between the Union and the County total being, in Donegal £. 37,713, and in Clare £. 28,504.

† Wheat - calculated at - £. 12 – – per ton.
Oats - - - „ - - 6 10 – „
Barley and Bere „ - - 7 10 – „
Rye - - - „ - - 5 – – „
Beans - - „ - - 8 10 – „

Potatoes - calculated at - £. 4 – – per ton.
Turnips - - „ - - 1 – – „
Other Green Crops „ - - 1 – – „
Flax - - - „ - - 3 – – per cwt.
Hay - - estimated at - 2 – – per ton.

‡ Horses and Mules (old and young), valued at - - - £. 8 – – each.
Asses - - - „ - - - 1 – – „
Cattle - - - „ - - - 15 – – „
Sheep - - - „ - - - 0 6 – – „
Pigs - - - „ - - - 1 – – „
Goats - - - „ - - - 1 5 – „
Poultry - - - „ - - - 0 6 8 „
„ - - - 0 – 6 „

‖ But one-fifth of t
§ The Ordnance V
not having the Ordn
estimated the value
bears to the Poor
Unions.

ION OF DIFFERENT PORTIONS OF IT ARE SEVERALLY CONTRASTED WITH EACH OTHER.

POPULATION.

Number.		Population relative to Area.			Population relative to Value.		Population relative to Crop produced.				Population relative to Value of Stock.	Population relative to Value of Crop and Stock.	UNIONS.
Families, Census 1841.	Population, Census 1841.	Population relative to Total Area.	Population relative to Arable Land.	Population relative to Land Cropped.	Population relative to Ordnance Value.	Population relative to Poor Law Value.	Population relative to Grain produced.	Population relative to Potatoes produced.	Population relative to Green Crops produced.	Population relative to Total Value of Crop produced.			
Col. 50.	Col. 51.	Col. 52.	Col. 53.	Col. 54.	Col. 55.	Col. 56.	Col. 57.	Col. 58.	Col. 59.	Col. 60.	Col. 61.	Col. 62.	Col. 1.
No.	*No.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	*Acres.*	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	*Cwt. qrs. lbs.*	*Sts. lbs.*	*Cwt. qrs. lbs.*	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
- -	77840	1 to 2·732	- - -	1 to ·5195	1 to 1 7 11¼	1 to 1 6 –	1 to 4 1 7⅗	1 to 18 0	1 to 18 2 5⅘	1 to 4 – 4⅘	1 to 3 4 11¼	1 to 7 5 2¼	- - Ennis.
Unions not distinguished in Census	49935	1 to 3·520	- - -	1 to ·4087	1 to 1 5 5	1 to 1 7 –¼	1 to 3 2 23¼	1 to 28 5¼	1 to 6 0 21⅘	1 to 2 19 9⅘	1 to 3 9 5½	1 to 6 9 3½	- - Ennistymon.
	82353	1 to 2·160	- - -	1 to ·5176	1 to – 16 –¾	1 to – 14 5¼	1 to 5 3 4½	1 to 37 10½	1 to 8 0 16¾	1 to 4 1 5	1 to 2 10 9¼	1 to 6 11 11¼	- - Kilrush.
- -	53563	1 to 3·313	- - -	1 to ·4380	1 to – 16 6	1 to – 16 7⅘	1 to 4 1 3¾	1 to 28 1¼	1 to 23 1 4½	1 to 4 – 7¾	1 to 2 13 2¼	1 to 6 13 10½	- - Scariff.
- - -	263691	1 to 2·786	- - -	1 to ·4813	1 to 1 1 5	1 to 1 – 8½	1 to 4 2 18½	1 to 28 2¼	1 to 13 3 19¾	1 to 3 16 9¼	1 to 2 18 11½	1 to 6 15 9½	- - Union Total.*
48981	286394	1 to 2·891	1 to 1·595	1 to ·4801	1 to 1 1 7	1 to 1 1 –¾	1 to 4 2 17¼	1 to 27 10	1 to 14 2 5	1 to 4 2 9½	1 to 2 17 10⅘	1 to 7 – 8¼	- - County Clare.
- -	43403	1 to 3·128	- - -	1 to ·4834	1 to – 15 3	1 to 1 3 8½	1 to 3 2 17⅘	1 to 25 0⅘	1 to 8 1 24⅘	1 to 3 2 9⅘	1 to 3 3 8⅘	1 to 6 6 6½	- - Ballyshannon.
- -	41371	1 to 3·815	- - -	1 to ·4740	1 to – 12 3⅘	1 to – 15 3½	1 to 3 3 19	1 to 15 11¼	1 to 9 0 20¼	1 to 2 12 9⅘	1 to 2 19 7⅘	1 to 5 12 5½	- - Donegal.
- -	18571	1 to 6·731	- - -	1 to ·4634	1 to – 7 10½	1 to – 11 4¼	1 to 4 3 22	1 to 57 3⅘	1 to 12 3 26⅓	1 to 4 – 8	1 to 2 13 11½	1 to 6 14 7½	- - Dunfanaghy.
Unions not distinguished in Census of 1841	43571	1 to 5·980	- - -	1 to ·6309	1 to – 6 3⅘	1 to – 7 3⅘	1 to 2 2 18⅘	1 to 38 6	1 to 6 1 3	1 to 3 12 2	1 to 2 18 7½	1 to 6 11 –½	- - Glenties.
	43569	1 to 3·656	- - -	1 to ·6222	1 to – 13 3⅘	1 to – 16 9½	1 to 6 2 11	1 to 57 6¼	1 to 14 0 22½	1 to 4 12 2⅘	1 to 3 17 5⅗	1 to 8 9 10⅗	- - Innishowen.
- -	25921	1 to 3·947	- - -	1 to ·7589	1 to – 19 9⅗	1 to 1 4 6⅘	1 to 8 0 16¾	1 to 31 9	1 to 29 0 13¼	1 to 6 4 10⅘	1 to 3 2 7⅘	1 to 9 7 6⅘	- - Letterkenny.
- -	38108	1 to 2·887	- - -	1 to ·5642	1 to – 11 6¼	1 to – 16 6	1 to 4 0 26⅕	1 to 21 5⅘	1 to 12 2 7⅕	1 to 3 4 7⅘	1 to 2 16 6	1 to 6 1 1⅘	- - Milford.
- -	25786	1 to 4·697	- - -	1 to ·9199	1 to – 18 3¼	1 to 1 2 9⅓	1 to 8 1 11¾	1 to 39 8	1 to 25 0 15⅓	1 to 6 12 –⅓	1 to 4 – 8⅓	1 to 10 12 8⅗	- - Stranorlar.
- - -	280300	1 to 4·181	- - -	1 to ·6019	1 to – 12 10⅓	1 to – 17 –⅗	1 to 5 0 1⅓	1 to 34 6	1 to 13 0 23¼	1 to 4 – 11¼	1 to 3 4 4	1 to 7 5 4	- - Union Total.*
53899	296448	1 to 4·025	1 to 1·326	1 to ·6847	1 to – 15 2⅓	1 to – 18 8	1 to 5 3 22⅓	1 to 38 13	1 to 19 0 0⅗	1 to 5 1 7⅓	1 to 3 5 1⅘	1 to 8 6 9⅓	- - County Donegal.
439805	2386373	1 to 2·394	1 to 1·427	1 to ·6913	1 to 1 1 2⅘	1 to 1 7 9⅘	1 to 6 3 19¼	1 to 43 1⅘	1 to 17 0 3⅖	1 to 5 3 10⅘	1 to 2 16 1⅘	1 to 8 – –⅘	- - Ulster.
362134	1973731	1 to 2·470	1 to 2·006	1 to ·8280	- - -	1 to 2 6 10½	1 to 7 3 27½	1 to 40 10½	1 to 20 3 2	1 to 6 5 5	1 to 3 5 10⅘	1 to 9 11 4	- - Leinster.
415154	2396161	1 to 2·530	1 to 1·617	1 to ·5721	- - -	1 to 1 11 6¼	1 to 5 1 6⅓	1 to 42 2⅘	1 to 16 2 9½	1 to 4 17 –⅓	1 to 2 15 9⅘	1 to 7 12 9⅘	- - Munster.
255694	1418859	1 to 3·095	1 to 1·563	1 to ·4111	1 to – 18 1⅘	1 to 1 – 7⅘	1 to 4 0 6	1 to 24 13	1 to 9 0 4⅓	1 to 2 19 3⅓	1 to 2 7 7⅓	1 to 5 6 11⅓	- - Connaught.
1472787	8175124	1 to 2·545	1 to 1·646	1 to ·6107	- - -	1 to 1 12 3	1 to 6 0 26¼	1 to 40 1	1 to 16 1 25⅘	1 to 4 19 4	1 to 2 16 5	1 to 7 16 3⅓	- - IRELAND.

RELIEF. ¶

Number relieved.				Cost.			Workhouse Accommodation.			Mortality.			Funds. *d*			UNIONS.
In Workhouse in April.	On Out-door Relief in April.	Total relieved in April.	Proportion relieved.	Cost of Relief for One Month.	Cost of same for 12 Months.	Rate per £. to meet it.	Workhouse Accommodation.	Accommodation relative to Population.	Accommodation relative to Numbers relieved.	*a* Number admitted into Workhouse in 12 Months.	*b* Deaths in Workhouses in 12 Months.	Deaths relative to Admission into Workhouses.	Rate collected in 12 Months.	Advances in Aid.	Expenditure in 12 Months.	
Col. 63.	Col. 64.	Col. 65.	Col. 66.	Col. 67.	Col. 68.	Col. 69.	Col. 70.	Col. 71.	Col. 72.	Col. 73.	Col. 74.	Col. 75.	Col. 76.	Col. 77.	Col. 78.	Col. 1.
No.	*No.*	*No.*	*P' cent.*	£.	£.	s. d.	*No.*	*Proportion.*	*Proportion.*	*No.*	*No.*	*No.*	£.	£.	£.	
1118	18738	19856	25·50	3169	38028	7 7½	800	1 to 97 3–10	1 to 24 8–10	4221	- -	- - -	28611	- -	32289	- - Ennis.
787	14424	15211	30·46	2079	24948	7 4½	600	1 to 83 2–10	1 to 25 3–10	2881	- -	- - -	18698	1000	25921	- - Ennistymon.
1255	13523	14778	17·94	2015	24180	8 1½	800	1 to 102 8–10	1 to 18 4–10	2738	- -	- - -	12439	6780	21992	- - Kilrush.
1895	17205	19100	35·65	3166	37992	17 –½	600	1 to 89. 2–10	1 to 31 8–10	2745	- -	- - -	14590	13580	28119	- - Scariff.
5055	63890	68945	33·73	10429	125148	8 3½	2800	1 to 94 1–10	1 to 24 6–10	12585	- -	- - -	74338	21360	108321	- - Union Total.*
- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	- - -	- -	- -	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- - County Clare.
707	1259	1966	4·52	1002	12024	4 8	500	1 to 86 8–10	1 to 3 9–10	1468	- -	- - -	7227	- -	5913	- - Ballyshannon.
541	1217	1758	4·24	668	8016	5 –⅘	500	1 to 82 7–10	1 to 3 5–10	1890	- -	- - -	5292	- -	3880	- - Donegal.
68	- -	268	1·44	191	2292	4 4	300	1 to 61 9–10	1 to 8–10	630	- -	- - -	1063	- -	1551	- - Dunfanaghy.
466	4069	4535	10·40	611	7332	8 11¼	500	1 to 87 1–10	1 to 9	2790	- -	- - -	3256	5207	8072	- - Glenties.
411	550	961	2·20	357	4284	2 4	600	1 to 72 6–10	1 to 1 6–10	1450	- -	- - -	3711	- -	2736	- - Innishowen.
402	- -	402	1·55	210	2520	1 6⅘	500	1 to 51 8–10	1 to 8–10	1390	194	1 in 7·16	2232	- -	3138	- - Letterkenny.
288	1899	2187	5·73	567	6804	4 4	400	1 to 95 2–10	1 to 5 4–10	1577	- -	- - -	3242	- -	3335	- - Milford.
332	- -	332	1·28	220	2640	1 9½	400	1 to 64 4–10	1 to 8–10	1340	- -	- - -	2803	- -	2101	- - Stranorlar.
3415	8994	12409	4·40	3826	45912	3 10	3700	1 to 75 7–10	1 to 3 3–10	12535	- -	- - -	28826	5207	30726	- - Union Total.*
-	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- - -	- - -	- -	- -	- - -	- -	- -	- -	- - County Donegal.
33115	58556	91671	3·88	26619	319428	1 9	41717	1 to 57 2–10	1 to 2 1 10	110306	15201	1 in 7·25	327004	5507	295182	- - Ulster.
35263	115544	150807	7·51	40873	490476	2 1½	41044	1 to 48	1 to 3 6·10	105295	14346	1 in 7·33	481615	1007	465578	- - Leinster.
48211	294895	343106	14·08	60121	721452	3 9	55113	1 to 43 4–10	1 to 6 2–10	154914	18484	1 in 8·38	628268	36352	695921	- - Munster.
18260	253284	271544	19·80	41773	501276	7 –	20119	1 to 70 4–10	1 to 13 4–10	46024	9924	1 in 4·63 *c*	182759	199711	399208	- - Connaught.
134849	722279	857128	10·48	169386	2032632	3 –¾	157993	1 to 51 7–10	1 to 5 4–10	416·39	57955	1 in 7·18	1619646	242577	1855889	- - IRELAND.

e value of Stock can be considered as the produce of a year.

luation of "Scariff and Ballyshannon" may not be accurate as here given, ce Valuation of those portions of them contained in other Counties. I have f those parts by ascertaining the proportion which the Ordnance Valuation aw Valuation in the parts of which I have the Ordnance Valuation of those

¶ In the four Unions of Clare, Inspecting Officers have had the control of the expenditure, and Vice-Guardians have been appointed to three of them, the Board of Guardians having been dismissed. In Donegal, on the other hand, there are but four Inspecting Officers to four out of the eight Unions, and *no Vice-Guardians* to any of them, the ordinary Guardians being permitted to discharge their functions in them all. The Workhouse accommodation of the Provinces includes all the Fever Hospitals and temporary and hired buildings. The total number relieved does *not* include the children fed at the schools by the British Association.

a Col. 73 includes the period from September 30, 1846, to September 29, 1847.

b Col. 74 includes the 52 weeks from April 1847 to April 1848.

c 14 out of the 18 Unions in Connaught are under the control of Vice-Guardians.
[illegible] out of the 36 Unions in Munster are under the control of Vice-Guardians.
6 out of the 34 Unions in Leinster are under the control of Vice-Guardians.
4 out of the 43 Unions in Ulster are under the control of Vice-Guardians.

d Cols. 76 and 77 embrace the year commencing September 30th, 1847, and ending September 29th, 1848; and Col. 78 includes Government and British Association grants.

John Vandeleur Stewart,
Chairman of Letterkenny Union, and Proprietor in Three Electoral Divisions in Kilrush Union.

GENERAL INDEX

TO

THE PRINCIPAL MATTERS

CONTAINED IN

THE EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE

THE SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS,

APPOINTED TO INQUIRE INTO THE

OPERATION OF THE IRISH POOR LAW,

AND THE

EXPEDIENCY OF MAKING ANY AMENDMENT
IN ITS ENACTMENTS.

Session 1849.

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Contractors, exorbitant rates charged by, to distressed Unions,	Twisleton, 7192. Otway, 8872.
Corn Laws, comparative effect of the repeal of, in England and Ireland,	Stewart, 7055.
Corn, depreciation in the price of,	Bourke, 3962. Stewart, 4774. 7054. Brett, 5349. Farren, 6427. Twisleton, 7330. Clarke, 7553. O'Shaughnessy, 8089.
——— introduction of, from abroad, being paid for in cash, cause of great scarcity of money,	Brett, 5346. Farren, 6434. Lucas, 6531.
County Cess, cases of hardship by the present mode of levying,	O'Shaughnessy 8047.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
Covenant, action for breach of, must be brought in Superior Courts,	Kincaid, 3257.
——— eviction, the only effectual mode of enforcing, rarely resorted to,	Kincaid, 3257. Leader, 4378.
Cottages, to be made liable for Rates,	Bourke, 4161.
——— in what cases to be rated to landlord in England,	Nicholls, 5632.
Crime, alarming increase of,	Stewart, 4742. Naper, 8508.
Crampton, George, Esquire, Evidence of,	5826 to 6102.

D.

Demoralization, general increase of,	Fairfield, 3648. Bourke, 4257. Leader, 4314. 4361. Hamilton, 4536. Brett, 5059. Clarke, 7567. 7581. 7626. O'Shaughnessy 8031. Naper, 8441. 8458. Otway, 8956.
——— causes of,	Strzelecki, 8599.
Disease, increase of, by poor diet,	Crampton, 5982.
Dietary, varies in different Unions,	Power, 87.
——— species of, supplied to paupers,	Brett, 5301. 5335. Farren, 6119. Lucas, 6517. Twisleton, 6719.
Dingle Union, condition of, previous to its division,	Fairfield, 3481.
——— amount of Rate in, in 1847, fictitious,	Fairfield, 3553.

DISTRESS:

——— Its Causes:	
(1.) The famine, or potato failure,	Power, 647. 739. 753. Senior, 1714. Martin, 1963. Gore, 2127. 2264. Leader, 4319. Nicholls, 5396. Twisleton, 6706. 6832. Clarke, 7610. O'Shaughnessy, 8091. Strzelecki, 8637.
(2.) Subdivision and subletting,	Gulson, 1108. Gore, 2185. Griffith, 2822. Fairfield, 3355. 3721. Stewart, 4734. Crampton, 5830. Naper, 8474.
(3.) Non-cultivation of the land,	Senior, 1714. Martin, 2062. Kincaid, 3279. Bourke, 3867. 4178. Leader, 4375. Stewart, 7049. Crampton, 5989. Twisleton, 7307.
(4.) Con-acre,	Gore, 2211. Naper, 8411.
(5.) The Poor Law,	Gore, 2264. Hamilton, 4658. Brett, 5033. 5064. Crampton, 5919. O'Shaughnessy, 8091. 8144. Naper, 8455. Holden, 9298.
(6.) Size of Electoral Divisions,	Griffith, 2947. Fairfield, 3430. Lucas, 6495. Naper, 8411.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
DISTRESS—*continued.*	
—— Its Causes—*continued.*	
(7.) Excess of Population,	Fairfield, 3410. Brett, 5274. Crampton, 6006. Clarke, 7712.
(8.) Amount of Rates,	Fairfield, 3545. Bourke, 3934. Leader, 4319. Hamilton, 4482. Stewart, 7049. Lucas, 6495. Otway, 8941.
(9.) Depreciation of agricultural produce,	Bourke, 3962. Brett, 5350. Farren, 6427. Twisleton, 7330. Clarke, 7553. O'Shaughnessy, 8089. Holden, 9371. Bewley, 9418.
(10.) Want of employment and circulation of capital,	Brett, 5017. Lucas, 6634. Otway, 8940.
(11.) Want of industrious habits on the part of the people,	Clarke, 7581. 7695. 7729. Otway, 8956.
(12.) Out-door Relief,	Otway, 8849. Holden, 9326.
—— Its progressive Increase,	Power, 737. 749. Senior, 1715. Martin, 1956. Gore, 2259. Kincaid, 3293. Fairfield, 3517. Bourke, 3828. 3880. 3989, 4167. 4217. 4248. Leader, 4315. 4417. Hamilton, 4637. 4690. Brett, 4819. 4977. 5238. Labalmondiere, 5717. Crampton, 5868. 5895. 5963. 6084. Farren, 6133. 6292. 6317. Lucas, 6461. 6514. Twisleton, 6739. 7192. Stewart, 7049. 7054. Clarke, 7526. 7683. 7745. O'Shaughnessy, 8021. 8095. Otway, 8871. 8954. Holden, 9311. Bewley, 9436. 9522. 9531.
—— Its Remedy: (1.) Emigration by Government,	Senior, 1548. 1650. Gulson, 2671. Kincaid, 3101. Fairfield, 3602. 3774. Stewart, 4748. Nicholls, 5571. Clarke, 7799. Strzelecki, 8621.
(2.) Individualizing of responsibility,	Gore, 2151. Kennedy, 2393. Kincaid, 3304. Fairfield, 3719. Hamilton, 4484. Lucas, 6493. 6587.
(3.) Introduction of capital,	Gore, 2169. Crampton, 6035. O'Shaughnessy, 8106. Strzelecki, 8621.
(4.) A Law of Settlement,	Gore, 2169. Kennedy, 2427.

General Heads	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
DISTRESS—*continued.*	
—— Its Remedy—*continued.*	Gore, - - 2152. Kincaid, - - 3304.
(5.) Reduction of the size of Electoral Divisions,	Bourke, - - 4067. Leader, - - 4400. Stewart, - - 4764.
(6.) Creation of a class of paid labourers, - -	Bourke, - - 4133. Naper, - - 8491.
(7.) Sale of estates for arrears of Rates, - -	Bourke, - - 4206. Leader, - - 4416. Hamilton, - - 4512. Brett, - - 5161. Twisleton, - 6951. O'Shaughnessy, - 8087. 8136.
(8.) Undertaking of Arterial Drainages, &c., -	Bourke, - - 4269.
(9.) Granting of greater powers to landlords, -	Leader, - - 4379.
(10.) Power of exchange of estates, as in England,	Crampton, - - 6011.
(11.) Fixing of a high maximum, - - - -	Twisleton, - - 7270. 7290.
(12.) Destruction of the dependence upon the potato, and improvement in agriculture, -	Clarke - - 7705. 7789.
(13.) Annihilation of small holdings, - - - -	Strzelecki - - 8593.
(14.) Law of Relief similar to the English, - -	Holden, - - 9383.
—— its increase amongst the landed gentry and farmers,	Power, - - 747. Gore, - - 2262. Kincaid, - - 3280. Bourke, - - 4178. 4208. Hamilton, - - 4649. 4677. Brett, - - 4819. 5005. Farren, - - 6318. O'Shaughnessy, - 8016. Archer, - - 9190. Bewley, - - 9413. 9537.
—— in Antrim and Armagh, equal to that in the agricultural districts, - - - - - - - - -	Senior, - - 1543.
Distressed Unions, impossibility of raising a Rate in, equal to their requirements, - - - - - -	Power, - - 766.
—— assistance to, as at present given, objectionable, -	Power, - - 825.
—— assistance for *ab extra*, essential, - - - - -	Bourke, - - 3807. 3989. Farren, - - 6328. Lucas, - - 6476. 6509, 6570. Twisleton - - 6765. 7198. 7265. Clarke, - - 7774. Otway, - - 8831. 8843.
—— ultimate result, if exempted from Rates, - -	Leader, - - 4416.
—— their increasing poverty, and result of utmost collection of Rate, - - - - - - - - -	Twisleton, - - 6737. 6797. Otway, - - 8871.
—— probable amount of distress in case of potato failure, - - - - - - - - -	Twisleton, - 6826.
—— where valuation low in proportion to population, not necessarily unable to support their destitution, -	Twisleton, - - 6974.
—— unequal amount of aid given to, by the Commissioners, - - - - - - - - -	Stewart, - - 7050.
—— extent of their requirements dependent on the coming harvest, - - - - - - - - -	Twisleton, - - 7286.
—— payment of their debts essential before fixing a maximum, - - - - - - - - -	Twisleton, - - 7288. 7337. Otway, - - 8869.
—— any extraneous aid for, only justifiable by the pressure, - - - - - - - - -	Twisleton, - - 7372.
—— their unparalleled misery, - - - - - -	Strzelecki, - - 8561.
Donegal County, amount of Out-door Relief in, compared with Clare, - - - - - - - - -	Power, - - 25. 640.
—— its Unions, area, &c., compared with Clare, - -	Power, - - 27. Stewart, - - 4791.
—— Out-door Relief to able-bodied, given in Glenties Union only, - - - - - - - - - -	Power, - - 61.
—— amount of wages in, - - - - - - -	Hamilton, - - 4625.
Donegal Union, condition of, - - - - - - -	Hamilton, - - 4468.
—— motives of the Commissioners for suggesting a reduction of Rate in, - - - - - - -	Twisleton, - - 6781. 6910.
—— heavy amount of Rate in, - - - - - -	Twisleton, - - 6790.
Drainage, extensively carried on in the North-East, - -	Senior, - - 1518. 1579.
—— scale of daily payment for, - - - - - -	Senior, - - 1533.
Dumfanaghy Union. *See* Glenties Union.	

E.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
EJECTMENT, expensive and difficult to enforce in case of breach of covenant,	Fairfield, 3743.; Leader, 4390.
——— difficulty of applying the same principle of, to Ireland and to England,	Fairfield, 3748.; Leader, 4377.
——— principle of the Act of last year,	Fairfield, 3753.
——— slow process of, in case of resisting tenant,	Leader, 4382.
——— increase of, by the Six Months' Clause,	Stewart, 4778.
——— in certain cases the only mode of recovering the rent,	Naper, 8423.
ELECTORAL DIVISIONS, average number of, to a Union,	Power, 167.
——— causes of their unequal Rates,	Power, 265.
——— effect of equal Rates in,	Power, 271.
——— requirements of the worst, hitherto met by funds of British Association,	Power, 275.; Martin, 1956.
——— their unpaid Rates outstanding, how charged under new Warrant,	Power, 297.
——— mode adopted on their first formation,	Gulson, 837. 2734.; Kincaid, 3302.
——— causes of the fluctuation of opinion as to their boundaries,	Huband, 1320.
——— their complete exhaustion necessary before applying for Union Rate or Rate in Aid as in England,	Senior, 1748.; Gulson, 2762.
——— if increased in number, Guardians not to be increased in proportion,	Fairfield, 3364. 3415.; Leader, 4409.
——— reasons for and against their reduction,	Nicholls, 5655.
——— Rates raised in, for relief of other parts of Unions, objected to,	Twisleton, 7216. 7262.
——— any great reduction in, not desirable,	Larcom, 8272.
——— elements to be observed in reducing their size,	Larcom, 8295. 8313.
——— unjust demarcation in particular localities,	Larcom, 8304.

(*See* AREA OF TAXATION.)

EMIGRATION:	
——— Its effect, as at present carried on, upon capital and cultivation,	Power, 742.; Senior, 1845.; Gore, 2127.; Bourke, 3905.; Hamilton, 4594. 4646.; Brett, 5276.; Farren, 6340.; Clarke, 7795.; Naper, 8459.; Otway, 8838.; Bewley, 9520.; Murdoch, 9642.
——— from what funds to be assisted,	Senior, 1838. 1866.; Gore, 2292.; Kennedy, 2477.; Gulson, 2671.; Fairfield, 3763.; Stewart, 4750.; Brett, 5288.; Strzelecki, 8637. 8646.
——— its effect on the well-being of the emigrants proved by their remittances to relatives,	Gore, 2254.; Kincaid, 3138.; Bourke, 4237.; Brett, 5286.; Farren, 6337.; Clarke, 7781.; Naper, 8482.; Strzelecki, 8602. 8619.; Otway, 8838.; Bewley, 9515.; Murdoch, 9592.
——— extraordinary measures for, not necessary in all cases,	Senior, 1585.; Kennedy, 2476.; Kincaid, 3125.; Fairfield, 3772.; Lucas, 6573.; Strzelecki, 8634.; Bewley, 9518.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
EMIGRATION—*continued.*	
——— its necessity in over-peopled districts,	Senior, 1585.; Gore, 2253.; Kincaid, 3101. 3142.; Fairfield, 3588. 3602.; Hamilton, 4605.; Stewart, 4748. 4761.; Nicholls, 5571.; Crampton, 6074.; Clarke, 7790.; Larcom, 8362.; Naper, 8438.; Archer, 9148.
——— terms on which to be conducted:	
(1.) In distressed Unions only,	Senior, 1838.
(2.) Charging the expense on land,	Senior, 1838. 1869.; Gore, 2290.; Kennedy, 2355. 2477.; Kincaid, 3115.; Fairfield, 3606. 3762.; Bourke, 4245.; Stewart, 4751.
(3.) Selling land, if instalments not paid up,	Senior, 1838.
——— aid for, from Imperial resources not required in the North,	Senior, 1853.
——— preferable to the granting of relief or other temporary aid,	Senior, 1669. 1822.; Kincaid, 3124. 3142. 3306.; Fairfield, 3763.; Stewart, 4760.; Clarke, 7878.; Naper, 8504.
——— chiefly of the farming class, and of persons with capital,	Power, 744.; Gulson, 1158.; Senior, 1845.; Gore, 2127. 2256.; Kincaid, 2138.; Bourke, 3867. 3908.; Hamilton, 4593.; Brett, 4995. 5274.; Farren, 6338.; Clarke, 7796.; Strzelecki, 8623.; Otway, 8838.
——— to be kept distinct from the Poor Law, except in the case of orphans,	Clarke, 7861. 7884.; Strzelecki, 8647.
——— its expense compared with the maintenance of paupers at home,	Senior, 1820.; Kincaid, 3106.; Clarke, 7872.; Naper, 8503.
——— raising money for, in some Unions, impossible,	Clarke, 7885.
Emigrants, numbers sent from Workhouses last year, and how selected,	Murdoch, 9559.
——— Expense of outfit, destination, and discipline on board,	Murdoch, 9566.
——— their progressive increase,	Murdoch, 9577.
——— causes of their proceeding last year chiefly to the United States,	Murdoch, 9583.
——— to what extent absorption of, possible, by North American and Australian Colonies,	Murdoch, 9594. 9633.
——— preference for the agricultural class of,	Murdoch, 9602.
——— of Lace Workers from Calais, sent to Australia by means of Colonial Funds,	Murdoch, 9606.
——— cost per head of children from Ragged Schools	Murdoch, 9610.
——— Expense of, to Australia, paid by Colonial Funds,	Murdoch, 9621.
——— if Irish, eligible from Ireland only,	Murdoch, 9616.
——— Amount of remittances sent by, from America,	Murdoch, 9641.
——— freights for, to Australia,	Murdoch, 9644.
Erris District, condition and peculiarity of tenure in,	Crampton, 5830. 5876.
——— Amount of relief and expenditure in,	Crampton, 5865. 5927.
——— Increase of rent in, caused by small holdings,	Crampton, 5870.
——— Average rent per acre,	Crampton, 5874.
——— scarcity of Magistrates in, and persons competent to act as Guardians,	Crampton, 5949.
——— decrease of mortality in,	Crampton, 5590.
——— individualising of responsibility in, impossible, from dispersion of properties,	Crampton, 5992.
——— totally unable to support its own poor, even under the proposed reduced area of taxation,	Crampton, 6020. 6041.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
ESTATES, circumstances attending the sale of, under decree of the Irish Courts,	Stewart, - - 7058.
——— when to be sold for arrears of Rates,	Gore, - - 2297. Bourke, - - 4200. Leader, - - 4416. Hamilton, - - 4512. Brett, - - 5162. Twisleton, - - 6951. O'Shaughnessy, - 8087. 8133.
ESTATE ELECTORATES, proposed adoption of,	Stewart, - - 4770. 7062. Lucas, - - 6496.
EVICTIONS, encouraged by the present state of the law, and size of Electoral Divisions,	Gore, - - 2167. Fairfield, - - 3430. 3673. Bourke, - - 4185. Stewart, - - 4766.
——— not a necessary consequence of reducing the area of taxation,	Gore, - - 2182. Larcom, - - 8358.
——— likely to result by lowering the £. 4 Clause,	Gore, - - 2194.
——— rarely happen in Electoral Divisions when belonging to one proprietor,	Griffith, - - 2845. 2871.
F.	
FAMINE, permanent legislation for the extraordinary circumstances of, not expedient,	Gulson, - - 2663.
——— effect of, on the social state,	Stewart, - - 4734. Strzelecki, - - 8592.
——— legislation for, impolitic, even if possible,	Nicholls, - - 5396.
——— from its continuance, to be dealt with as an exceptional case,	Nicholls, - - 5436.
——— expected aggravation of, in case of periodical failure of the potato,	Strzelecki, - - 8596. 8844.
FAIRFIELD, CHARLES GEORGE, Esquire, D.L., Evidence of,	- - - 3342 to 3791.
FARREN, Captain RICHARD THOMAS, Poor Law Inspector, Evidence of,	- - - 6102 to 6443.
FINANCE COMMITTEES, formation and number of,	Burgoyne, - - 8701.
FISHERIES, on the West Coast, valueless, from want of markets,	Brett, - - 5180. Crampton, - - 6077. Lucas, - - 6541. Archer, - - 8995. 9021. Bewley, - - 9493.
——— Quarrels caused by, and opposition given to, by the inhabitants on the coast,	Lucas, - - 6550. Archer, - - 9010. 9042.
——— suggested participation in, by Government,	Archer, - - 8979.
——— limited prosecution of, from want of means,	Archer, - - 8983. 9041. Bewley, - - 9484.
——— small vessels not adapted for,	Archer, - - 9029.
——— likely to be highly remunerative, if protected by law,	Archer, - - 9035.
FISH, price of, on the West Coast,	Brett, - - 5182. Crampton, - - 6080. Lucas, - - 6547. Archer, - - 8999. Bewley, - - 9505.
——— price of, for Workhouses,	Lucas, - - 6552.
——— establishment of a curing-house for, by the Society of Friends,	Lucas, - - 6541.
——— causes of the disinclination to, as an article of food,	Bewley, - - 9510.
G.	
GALWAY, difficulty of engaging tenants for farms left unoccupied, even at reduced rents,	Bourke, - - 3871.
——— Reasons for apprehending increasing distress in the coming summer,	Bourke, - - 3872. 3896.
——— its distressed condition,	Bourke, - - 4011. Lucas, - - 6506.
——— extent of Out-door Relief in,	Leader, - - 4264. Lucas, - - 6445.
——— its amount of debt, of Rate collected, and of expenditure,	Lucas, - - 6467.
——— Seizure of the Workhouse goods, under execution,	Lucas, - - 6477. 6506.
——— weekly consumption of Indian meal,	Lucas, - - 6524.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
Galway Union, population and workhouse accommodation in,	Martin, - - 1938. 2559.
——— dissolution of the Board of Guardians in,	Martin, - - 1952.
——— better collection of Rate expected in, than last year,	Martin, - - 1959.
——— consequences of the disproportionate size of,	Martin, - - 2521.
——— inefficiency of the Workhouse test in, since the famine,	Martin, - - 2566.
Glenties Union, compared with Dumfanaghy,	Power, - - 41. 59. Griffith, - - 2829. Stewart, - - 4797. Strzelecki, - - 8579. Otway, - - 8809. 8826.
——— supported almost entirely by gratuitous relief,	Hamilton, - - 4463.
——— distressed condition of, and means of supporting its poor,	Hamilton, - - 4465. 4538. 4552. Twisleton, - - 7208. Otway, - - 8881.
——— amount of Out-door Relief in,	Hamilton, - - 4540. 4635.
——— anticipated mortality in,	Hamilton, - - 4637.
Gort Union, causes of abandonment of land in,	Bourke, - - 3944.
——— its distressed condition,	Bourke, - - 4012.
Gore, Colonel Francis Arthur Knox, Evidence of,	- - 2070 to 2317.
Grass Lands, rent on, calculated differently from tillage,	Bourke, - - 3986.
Griffith, Richard, Esquire, Valuator, Evidence of,	- - 2771 to 2999.
Guardians. *See* Boards of Guardians.	
Gulson, Edward, Esquire, Poor Law Inspector, Evidence of,	830 to 1179. 2607 to 2771.

H.

Hamilton, John, Esquire, Evidence of,	4457 to 4724.
Henn, Mr., opinion of, on the Quarter-acre Clause, and its effect,	Power, - - 313. 370. Martin, - - 2578. Fairfield, - - 3631. Bourke, - - 4186. Twisleton, - - 6864. Archer, - - 9217.
Holden, Mr. John, Guardian of Belfast Union, Evidence of,	9227 to 9403.
Holdings, suggested exemption of from Rates, in the case of paid labourers,	Fairfield, - - 3676.
——— under half an acre for labourers recommended,	Bourke, - - 4134. Naper, - - 8491.
Holidays of Obligation, orders issued for their observance,	Twisleton, - - 7173.
Houses, to what extent exempted under townland valuation,	Griffith, - - 2778.
——— liable for Poor-rate when occupied as Police Stations,	Kincaid, - - 3277.
Huband, Captain George, Poor Law Inspector, Evidence of,	1179 to 1487.

I.

Immigration, increase of, to this country, likely to be in proportion to Irish distress,	Kincaid, - - 3340. Brett, - - 5277. Nicholls, - - 5574. Twisleton, - - 7382. Otway, - - 8950. Bewley. - - 9541.
Incumbered Estates Act, causes of its limited operation,	Kennedy, - - 2335. Kincaid, - - 3290.
Indian Meal, chief support of the poorer class,	Leader, - - 4223. Brett, - - 5019. 5300. Crampton, - - 5969. Farren, - - 6436. Lucas, - - 6526. Clarke, - - 7691.
——— vessels with, from America, receive cash in payment, returning with emigrants as freight,	Brett, - - 5306. 5346. Lucas, - - 6530.
——— average quantity allowed for out-door adults, price per ton, &c.,	Brett, - - 5312. Crampton, - - 5986. Farren, - - 6113.
——— preferred by the lower class to oatmeal and rye,	Brett, - - 5330.
——— compared with potatoes, as an article of sustenance,	Clarke, - - 7702.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
Insolvent Landlords, the greatest impediment to the prosperity of Ireland,	Martin, 2068. Bourke, 4183. Leader, 4416.
Ireland, erroneously compared with England as regards the Poor Law, and the law generally,	Kennedy, 2458. Twisleton, 6750. Archer, 9185.
—— a profitable field for the employment of capital,	Griffith, 2836.
—— complete ruin of, inevitable, in case of continuance of present state of things,	Otway, 8947.
Irish, contrasted with the French in Canada, after emigration,	Strzelecki, 8600.
—— after emigration, not distinguishable in the second generation from the Anglo-Saxon,	Strzelecki 8612.

J.

Juries, in case of breach of covenant, invariably find for the tenant,	Fairfield, 3723. 3744. Leader, 4381.

K.

Kanturk Union, condition of,	Leader, 4313. 4335.
—— amount of Out-door Relief in, to an individual,	Leader, 4314. 4348.
—— gradual deterioration of the land in,	Leader, 4334.
—— cause of the destruction of cottages in,	Leader, 4354.
—— to what extent outlay in, likely to be profitable,	Leader, 4373.
—— causes of the want of outlay of capital,	Leader, 4375.
—— case of revision of valuation in, by the Guardians, for their own benefit,	Leader, 4446.
—— employment of labourers in,	Leader, 4340.
Kells Union, difficulty of collecting the Rates in,	Huband, 1468.
Kelp Manufacture, total decline of, on the coast of Connemara and Donegal, since the introduction of barilla,	Martin, 2064.
Kenmare Union, effect on its condition by the Land Improvement Act,	Fairfield, 3514. 3618.
—— amount of Rates struck and collected on the College property in,	Fairfield, 3523. 3550.
—— its condition in October 1848, and system of management at present pursued in,	Clarke, 7661. 7736.
—— its debt and prospects up to next harvest	Clarke, 7744.
Kennedy, Captain John Pitt, Evidence of,	2317 to 2485.
Kerry, County Rates in, though hitherto met, now difficult of collection,	Clarke, 7761.
Killarney Union, its condition, and system of management pursued in,	Clarke, 7525.
—— its finances,	Clarke, 7555. 7593.
—— causes of the successful operation of the Poor Law in,	Clarke, 7602.
—— comparison of with Cahirciveen,	Clarke, 7604.
Killarney, decrease in the number of visitors at, last year	Clarke, 7587. 7640.
Kilmallock Union, fluctuation of Out-door Relief in,	Power, 640. 653.
Kilrush Union, condition of,	Stewart, 4796.
Kincaid, Joseph, Esquire, Land Agent, Evidence of	2999 to 3342.

L.

Labalmondiere, Captain Douglas, Evidence of,	5701 to 5826.
Labour, want of demand for,	Kennedy, 2446. 2482. Fairfield, 3434. 3455. Bourke, 4140. Clarke, 7766.
—— effect on the market for, in England, by too confined area and absence of competition,	Gulson, 2723.
—— diminished necessity for,	Leader, 4319. 4349. Brett, 4821.
—— how affected by the use of machinery,	Nicholls, 5672.
Labour Rate, objected to,	Kennedy, 2331. 2421.
—— not objected to under restrictions,	Martin, 2539.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
LABOURERS, migration of, to England, an evil to both countries,	Huband, - - 1349. Nicholls, - - 5576.
——— proposed relief to, from the Poor-rate, in case of non-employment by the proprietor,	Kennedy, - - 2443.
——— migration of, to particular districts for the sake of Public Works, objected to,	Kincaid, - - 3323.
——— increasing physical incapacity of,	Bourke, - - 4168. 4212.
——— compared with out-door paupers,	Bourke, - - 4302.
——— progressively deteriorating condition of,	Hamilton, - - 4690.
LABOUCHERE LETTER, estimated profit of works undertaken under, compared with ordinary works at the present time,	Larcom, - - 8394.
——— operations under, in the Barony of Farney,	Larcom, - - 8398.
LAND IMPROVEMENT ACT, class of labourers employed under, and their rate of wages,	Bourke, - - 4291. Leader, - - 4403. Clarke, - - 7690.
——— operation of, beneficial only in case of a proprietor possessing an entire Electoral Division,	Hamilton, - - 4565.
——— causes of its limited operation,	Brett, - - 5154.
LAND:	
——— causes of the frequent surrenders of,	Power, - - 351. Lucas, - - 6682.
——— unoccupied, how rated,	Power, - - 471. O'Shaughnessy, - 8080.
——— where improved, liable on re-valuation to be rated on improved value, and the consequences,	Power, - - 484. Gulson, - - 1061. Gore, - - 2177. Griffith, - - 2948. Kincaid, - - 3332. Hamilton, - - 4569. Larcom, - - 8324. Otway, - - 8906.
——— not liable for Rates when not occupied,	Power, - - 552. Martin, - - 1969. Fairfield, - - 3544.
——— valueless in some districts from excess of population,	Senior, - - 1650. Crampton, - - 6025.
——— its complete exhaustion in the West from the loss of manure,	Senior, - - 1723.
——— real value of, compared with Poor Law Valuation, and its causes,	Gore, - - 2074. Martin, - - 2487. Bourke, - - 3956.
——— unsaleable under indefinite yearly increase of Rates,	Martin, - - 2485. 2501. Kincaid, - - 3289. Hamilton, - - 4513.
——— extent required for each family with cereal and potato cultivation,	Griffith, - - 2814. 2912.
——— its cultivation in the West compared with the rest of Ireland,	Kincaid, - - 3222.
——— causes of the unwillingness to take, on the part of English and Scotch farmers,	Kincaid, - - 3286. Brett, - - 5034.
——— causes of its abandonment by tenants,	Fairfield, - - 3544. Bourke, - - 3823. Hamilton, - - 4643. 4684. Nicholls, - - 5453. Farren, - - 6321. Stewart, - - 7049. Strzelecki, - - 8532. Bewley, - - 9524.
——— when let for potato cultivation and con-acre, its rent excessive, and nominal only,	Fairfield, - - 3589. Leader, - - 4432.
——— proposed abolition of all technicalities affecting its enure,	Fairfield, - - 3720.
——— increased and improved cultivation of, necessary in case of cereal food being substituted for potatoes,	Clarke, - - 7786.
LANDLORDS:	
——— when presumed to be occupiers, and liable for Rates	Power, - - 407. 554. Gore, - - 2074. Kincaid, - - 3260. Bourke, - - 4193. Brett, - - 5146. Crampton, - - 5902. 5937. Farren, - - 6384. Twisleton, - - 6931. O'Shaughnessy - 8080. Archer, - - 9217.

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LANDLORDS—*continued.*	
——— extent of their liability for Rates,	Power, 434. 448. 456. 483. 511.; Gulson, 1067.; Senior, 1787.; Martin, 1984.; Gore, 2074. 2182.; Kennedy, 2411.; Griffith, 2798. 2925.; Kincaid, 3171. 3262.; Bourke, 4117.; Leader, 4458.; Hamilton, 4544.; Stewart, 4781.; Crampton, 5888. 5902.; Twisleton, 6916. 7247.; Clarke, 7783.; Archer, 9095.
——— their heavier taxation in case of lowering of valuation,	Power, 456.; Brett, 4957.; Nicholls, 5583.
——— comparative liability of, for Rate in England and Ireland,	Power, 503.; Gulson, 1102.; Gore, 2182.; Nicholls, 5580.; Twisleton, 6916. 7247.
——— sacrifices made by, in giving back to tenants part of their rent,	Senior, 1592.
——— their limited control over their own property as compared with England,	Gore, 2293.; Fairfield, 3727. 3743.; Leader, 4424.; Archer, 9183. 9219.
——— cases in which an inequality of taxation would be just and reasonable,	Kennedy, 2453.; Fairfield, 3363.
——— to be held responsible for the laches of their predecessors,	Kennedy, 2473.
——— powerless to prevent pauperism where estates let on lease,	Leader, 4424.
——— unable on the West Coast to pay incumbrances or interest,	Hamilton, 4705.
——— their interest in the tenant's condition increased since the famine,	O'Shaughnessy, 8145.
——— extent of their legal power over tenants,	O'Shaughnessy, 8150.
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Larcom, Captain Thomas Aiskew, R. E., Evidence of,	8154 to 8402.
Leader, Nicholas, Esquire, Evidence of	4308 to 4457
Lessors, when liable for Rates of unoccupied land,	Power, 343. 364. 400; Kincaid, 3001.; Crampton, 5853.; Farren, 6373.; O'Shaughnessy, 8080.
——— reasons for the non-rating of,	Fairfield, 3677.
——— proceedings taken against by the Commissioners, not analogous with the law in England,	Twisleton, 7077.
Leases, dislike to, on the part of both landlord and tenant,	Senior, 1577. 1595.; Kincaid, 3235.
——— practically binding on landlord, but not on tenant,	Martin, 2589.
——— for what term desirable,	Kincaid, 3225.
——— covenants in, inoperative,	Leader, 4377.
Lessees, reduced condition of,	Brett, 5124.
Letterkenny Union, condition of,	Stewart, 4796.
Linen Manufacture, gradual decay of, in the North, owing to machinery,	Senior, 1553.
Listowel Union, effect of the Rates on the tenants in,	Fairfield, 3390.
——— Resolution of its Board of Guardians respecting their present taxation, and Memorial to the Lord Lieutenant,	Fairfield, 3503.
Lucas, William Henry, Esquire, Temporary Poor Law Inspector, Evidence of,	6443 to 6702.

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MAGISTRATES, unable, in some districts, to attend Quarter Sessions, from their embarrassments,	O'Shaughnessy, 8019.
MARTIN, JAMES, Esquire, Evidence of,	1929 to 2070. 2485 to 2607.
MAYO:	
——— desertion of farms in, for the purpose of emigration,	Bourke, 3867. 3916.
——— difficulty of engaging tenants for farms left unoccupied, even at reduced rents,	Bourke, 3869. 3912.; Brett, 4831.
——— landlords of, unable to pay up arrears of Rates,	Bourke, 3949.
——— amount of Out-door Relief in,	Bourke, 4264.
——— general depression amongst proprietors and tenants, and depreciation of agricultural produce,	Brett, 4819. 4838. 5004.
——— inability of tenants to pay Rates and Taxes,	Brett, 4823. 5131.
——— increasing extent of land thrown out of cultivation,	Brett, 4824. 4864. 5131.; O'Shaughnessy, 8084.
——— its complete insolvency,	Brett, 4843. 5135.
——— causes of non-payment of Grand Jury Cess, and amount due,	Brett, 4843. 4857.
——— deterioration of the physical condition of its population, and diminution of births and marriages,	Brett, 4887. 5234.
——— incorrectness of its Poor Law Valuation,	Brett, 4902. 4934.
——— its inability to pay Rate in Aid,	Brett, 4975.
——— diminution of deposits in Savings Banks,	Brett, 4982.
——— numbers on the Rates in July 1848,	Brett, 4989.
——— requirements necessary to raise it from its present condition; viz. employment and capital,	Brett, 5029. 5149.
——— proportionate diminution of Rates and of rents,	Brett, 5070. 5130. 5141.
——— maximum Rate that might be levied in,	Brett, 5077. 5122.
——— probable result of a 7 *s.* 6 *d.* Rate in,	Brett, 5079.
——— increase of pauperism by low prices,	Brett, 5083.
——— proposed Unions not commensurate with the additional burden,	Brett, 5100.
——— expected amount of rent,	Brett, 5124.
——— cases in which arrears, due upon tenements, could not have been paid, even if no rent were paid to the landlord,	Brett, 5137.
——— proprietors, in some cases, willing to let lands temporarily for Rates only,	Brett, 5142.
——— want of markets in the agricultural districts,	Brett, 5168.
——— disposition of proprietors to aid Government in railway undertakings,	Brett, 5191.
——— amount of Poor-rate raised in 1848, and total Workhouse expenditure,	Brett, 3244.
——— its entire resources insufficient to support its pauper population,	Brett, 5252.
——— periodical distress probable in case of resumed potato cultivation,	Brett, 5255.
——— result of experiments by the Society of Friends,	Brett, 5264.
——— complete cessation of employment,	Brett, 5279.
——— annual sum expended for Indian meal,	Brett, 5316.
——— able-bodied population not excessive,	Twisleton, 7446.
——— arrears of County Cess, and remedy required for,	O'Shaughnessy, 8047.
——— what class of persons likely to become purchasers in, in case of sale of encumbered estates,	O'Shaughnessy, 8116.
MAXIMUM RATE, desirable where practicable	Senior, 1766.; Martin, 2492.; Gulson, 2740.; Kincaid, 3217.; Fairfield, 3387. 3417.; Bourke, 4018.; Brett, 4838.; Labalmondiere, 5749.; Crampton, 5921. 6049.; Lucas, 6583.; Twisleton, 7270. 7318.; Otway, 8919.
——— of 7 *s.* on Electoral Divisions, more just than Union Rate in Aid,	Gulson, 2714.; Stewart, 4770.; Twisleton, 7270.
——— of assessment inexpedient,	Gulson, 2741. 2761.; Hamilton, 4526.
——— can only be nominal, and therefore a fallacy,	Gulson, 2746. 2758.
——— of assessment, a bonus upon the non-payment of Rate,	Gulson, 2754.
——— if fixed, likely to be the minimum of assessment,	Gulson, 2756.; Otway, 8922.

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MAXIMUM RATE, any necessity for, sufficient to create alarm amongst capitalists,	Gulson, 2757. Bourke, 3890.
—— to what amount desirable,	Twisleton, 7277. 7319.
—— in case of being insufficient, the State to furnish assistance,	Twisleton, 7367.
MORTALITY, causes of its gradual increase in Workhouses	Power, 107. Lucas, 6516. Clarke, 7501.
—— cases of, amongst paupers on their way to the Workhouse,	Lucas, 6610.
—— from starvation questionable, unless under Quarter-acre Clause,	Lucas, 6672. Twisleton, 6745. 6851. Otway, 8852.
—— cases of, from starvation, where parties have been in possession of money and land,	Twisleton, 6853.
—— increase of, in prisons,	O'Shaughnessy, 8042.
—— presumed extent of, from the frequent exposure of corpses in the highways, &c.,	Strzelecki, 8571.
MORTGAGEES, taxation of, for distressed Unions, beneficial to themselves as well as to the public,	Gore, 2309.
MUNSTER, over-population and scarcity of employment in,	Huband, 1353.
MURDOCH, THOMAS WILLIAM CLINTON, Esquire, Chairman of the Land and Emigration Commission, Evidence of,	9557 to 9651.

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NAPER, JAMES LENNOX WILLIAM, Esquire, Evidence of,	8402 to 8510.
NAVIGATIONS, necessity for, in combination with harbours, &c., in the remote districts,	Burgoyne, 8763.
NEWCASTLE UNION, case of administration of Out-door Relief without legal authority,	Power, 104. Kennedy, 2361. Twisleton, 7103.
—— refusal of Commissioners to alter the Electoral Divisions of,	Twisleton, 7142.
NICHOLLS, GEORGE, Esquire, Secretary to the Poor Law Commission, Evidence of,	5358 to 5701.

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OCCUPATION, resumption of, practicable, except in case of legal surrender,	Power, 336. Fairfield, 3626. Bourke, 4192.
—— opinion on the cessation of,	Power, 392. Twisleton, 6890.
OCCUPIER: —— when liable for Rates,	Power, 403. 415. Martin, 1968. 2499. Kincaid, 3267. Farren, 6386. Twisleton, 6957. O'Shaughnessy, 8124.
—— rated for all properties above £4, in proportion with the landlord,	Power, 429. Martin, 1984. Bourke, 3975. Nicholls, 5582.
—— liable for former Rates,	Power, 550. 569. 598. Martin, 1968. 2499. Gore, 2297. Gulson, 2694. Kincaid, 3269. Bourke, 3945. Brett, 4862. Farren, 6367. Twisleton, 6914, 6936.
—— to be made wholly liable for Rates,	Power, 656. 669. Gore, 2188. Bourke, 4118. Hamilton, 4541. 4579. Stewart, 4779. 7061. Nicholls, 5583. 5612. Twisleton, 7255. Strzelecki, 8510. Archer, 9175.

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OCCUPIER—*continued.*	
—— the payment of rates by, essential to the working of the Poor Law in England,	Gulson, - - 1084.
—— enforcement of Rates from, easier than from lessors, (*See* Poor Law.)	Twisleton - - 6958.
Offences, committal of, in Workhouses, for the purpose of being sent to prison,	Clarke, - - 7822.
—— increase of, for the purpose of being transported,	O'Shaughnessy - 8031.
—— increase of, generally,	Naper, - - 8508.
Oldcastle Union, condition of, &c.,	Naper, - - 8406. 8496.
Ordnance Valuation, not a fair test of the value of land,	Martin, - - 1997. Stewart, - - 4775.
Orphan Girls, to be sent out as emigrants at Union expense	Lucas, - - 6695.
O'Shaughnessy, Michael, Esquire, Assistant Barrister, Evidence of,	- - - - 7889 to 8154.
Otway, Cæsar George, Esquire, Poor Law Inspector, Evidence of,	- - - - 8779 to 8971.
OUT-DOOR RELIEF :	
—— never administered in 25 Unions,	Power, - - 12. 63.
—— gradual improvements in its administration,	Power, - - 106. 124.
—— Frauds practised by women styling themselves "Widows," for the purpose of obtaining,	Power, - - 151. Gore, - - 2266. Fairfield, - - 3640. Bourke, - - 4249. Brett, - - 5055. Labalmondiere, - 5780. Farren, - - 6161. Lucas, - - 6668. Clarke, - - 7726. 7870.
—— numbers receiving, last year,	Power, - - 224. Twisleton, - - 6732.
—— periods of its maximum and minimum amount,	Power, - - 649.
—— not contemplated on the first formation of Unions,	Gulson, - - 835. Nicholls, - 5473. Larcom, - - 8189.
—— its demoralizing effect,	Gulson, - - 948. 2614. Huband, - - 1359. Senior, - - 1835. Martin, - - 2030. 2052. Gore, - - 2265. Fairfield, - - 3648. Bourke, - - 4260. Leader, - - 4316. Hamilton, - - 4722. Stewart, - - 4739. Brett, - - 5062. Nicholls, - - 5459. Labalmondiere, - 5768. Farren, - - 6152. Clarke, - - 7625. 7686. 7854. Otway, - - 8799. 8845.
—— granted occasionally by proprietors for their own benefit,	Huband, - - 1251. 1272. Gore, - - 2164. Fairfield, - - 3651. Labalmondiere, - 5768.
—— always granted when Workhouses are too full,	Senior, - - 1495. Twisleton, - - 6710.
—— its amount at the present time in the North,	Senior, - - 1497. 1537.
—— in cooked food preferable, and less liable to abuse,	Senior, - - 1499. 1541. Stewart, - - 4786. Twisleton, - - 6713.
—— cases of abuse on the part of small tenants,	Martin, - - 2056.
—— its tendency to disorganise the In-door,	Gore, - - 2268.
—— issued, in several Unions, on the responsibility of Guardians, without authority of Commissioners,	Kennedy, - - 2366.
—— under no circumstances to be given to the able-bodied,	Gulson, - - 2619. Brett, - - 5248.
—— Minute of the Commissioners on, in 1839,	Gulson, - - 2655.
—— its necessity in some districts,	Bourke, - - 3802. Otway, - - 8855.
—— as administered, sufficient to keep up the physical condition of the labourer,	Bourke, - - 4218. Lucas, - - 6519.
—— its effect on wages and employment,	Hamilton, - - 4708.
—— extracts of Reports and opinions on its impolicy,	Stewart, - - 4740.

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OUT-DOOR RELIEF—(*continued.*)	
——— its effect on pauperism and employment shown in the cases of Donegal and Clare respectively,	Stewart, - - 4741.
——— can only be effective for a famine of brief continuance,	Nicholls, - - 5389.
——— not necessary previous to the famine,	Nicholls, - - 5393. 5549
——— to be permissive in certain cases,	Nicholls, - - 5397. 5511. Otway, - - 8855.
——— less dangerous when given to the aged and infirm than to the able-bodied,	Nicholls, - - 5397. 5407.
——— more liable to abuse in Ireland than in England,	Nicholls, - - 5428.
——— its amount in England, in 1842, compared with In-door,	Nicholls, - - 5471. 5547.
——— practicability of its discontinuance in case of renewal of fertility,	Nicholls, - - 5484.
——— to the able-bodied can only be given by order of Commissioners,	Nicholls, - - 5491.
——— administered in all Unions in England, to a certain extent,	Nicholls, - - 5496.
——— as given in England, not parallel case with Ireland,	Nicholls, - - 5551.
——— recipients of, generally more healthy than non-recipients,	Crampton, - 5984.
——— useless employment of the recipients of,	Crampton, - 6094.
——— preferred by paupers to the Workhouse,	Farren, - - 6191.
——— its abuses by recipients,	Lucas, - - 6676. Twisleton, - 6717.
——— to be given to the impotent poor in certain cases, but the Workhouse system preferable,	Twisleton, - - 6709. Clarke, - - 7724.
——— to the able-bodied, legal only in certain cases,	Twisleton, - - 6710.
——— its daily amount to each able-bodied not prescribed by Commissioners,	Twisleton, - - 6719. 6871.
——— practically introduced by the Public Works and Relief Acts,	Twisleton, - - 7439.
——— its extinction, in some degree, practicable on Poor Law principles,	Twisleton, - - 7442.
——— salutary provision of the Law enabling Guardians to grant,	Twisleton, - - 7459. Clarke, - - 7721.
——— preferred by rural Guardians to In-door,	Clarke, - - 7876.
——— only justifiable for the preservation of life,	Otway, - - 8959.
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Palmerston, Viscount, effect of emigration on the property of	Kincaid, - - 3104. 3160. 3180. Brett, - - 5007.
Paupers, average maintenance of, before and since the potato failure,	Power, - - 89.
——— practice of ascertaining their chargeability,	Power, - - 244.
——— cost of emigration for, and maintenance at home,	Senior, - - 1811. Kincaid, - - 3106. Clarke, - - 7876.
——— annual cost for in-door and out-door,	Senior, - - 1813. Kincaid, - - 3108. Clarke, - - 7876. Naper, - - 8502. Otway, - - 8797.
——— mode suggested for the alteration of the law as regards their residence and chargeability,	Senior, - - 1885. Fairfield, - - 3463.
——— their residence defined,	Senior, - - 1886.
——— effect on Unions by the existing Law of Residence,	Senior, - - 1888.
——— numbers of, sent from England and Scotland to Belfast, from July 1847 to February 1849,	Senior, - - 1901.
——— when chargeable on the Union, and their increase by the present law,	Fairfield, - - 3439.
——— improvement in the physical condition of, after entering the Workhouse,	Bourke, - - 4220. Lucas, - - 6519.
——— increased number of, to Unions by the Six Months' Clause,	Stewart, - - 4778.
——— profitable mode of temporary employment suggested	Crampton, - - 6091.
——— cases of death amongst, owing to their distance from the Workhouse,	Larcom, - - 8194.
——— on removal from England, chargeable to the Union where they land,	Holden, - - 9375
Pauperism. *See* Distress.	
Pigs, great diminution of,	Clarke, - 7654.
Poor Law, its more efficient administration, from the appointment of Relieving Officers and Vice-Guardians,	Power, - - 125. Gore, - - 2090

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Poor Law, its administration likely to be improved by fixing the liability for Rates on occupiers,	Power, 656. 669. Gore, 2188. Hamilton, 4541. Stewart, 4779. 7061. Nicholls, 5583. 5612. Twisleton, 7255. Strzelecki, 8510. Archer, 9175.
—— its operation in distressed districts,	Power, 711. Martin, 2032. Holden, 9243.
—— its taxation, with its effect on employment and cultivation,	Power, 725. Martin, 1969 Hamilton, 4482.
—— proposed alterations in,	Power, 774. Huband, 1432. Gore, 2193. Fairfield, 3348.
—— former abuses under, in England,	Gulson, 974. 2669.
—— adequate to the purpose intended previous to the famine,	Martin, 1934. 2030. Fairfield, 3345. Stewart, 4726. 4732. Twisleton, 6705.
—— principles required for,	Kennedy, 2324.
—— project for removing the present pressure on,	Kennedy, 2335.
—— not applicable to a state of famine,	Gulson, 2620. 2662. Nicholls, 5380. 5403. 5537. Farren, 6310. Lucas, 6571. Strzelecki, 8514. 8586.
—— interpretation of, in case of revision of Valuation,	Bourke, 3857.
—— suggested alterations in; viz. (1.) Individualizing responsibility. (2.) Acquaintance on the part of the administrative body with the circumstances of Applicants. (3.) Stringent application of Workhouse test. (4.) Additional Workhouse accommodation. (5.) Taxing all tenements, and payment of Rate by occupier.	Stewart, 4762
—— its effect in Mayo,	Brett, 5233.
—— causes of its beneficial operation in England,	Nicholls, 5670.
—— peculiar difficulties attending its administration in Ireland,	Twisleton, 7241.
Poor Law Commissioners, their recommendation as to extent of Rating, and practice not reconcileable with Sect. 62,	Power, 281.
—— have power to sell lands for arrears of Rate under Irish Poor Law,	Power, 566. Senior, 1784. Bourke, 4200. Leader, 4415. Brett, 5158. Labalmondiere, 5744. Twisleton, 6969.
—— availed themselves, as far as possible, of existing buildings for Workhouses,	Gulson, 909.
—— in what cases their power of selling estates for arrears of Rates to be enforced,	Gore, 2297. Bourke, 4200. Leader, 4416. Hamilton, 4512. Brett, 5162. Twisleton, 6951. O'Shaughnessy, 8087.
—— have power to order revision of Valuation	Hamilton, 4537. Brett, 4939. Nicholls, 5591. 5606. Twisleton, 6992.
—— rarely interfere with Guardians and Vice-Guardians in the collection of Rates,	Twisleton, 7070.
—— repudiate the responsibility of improper making of Rates,	Twisleton, 7082.
—— only responsible for acts of Vice-Guardians in certain cases,	Twisleton, 7088.
Poor Law Commission Office, Dublin, constitution of, &c.	Twisleton, 7132. 7147.
—— its independent action preferable to connexion with Somerset House,	Twisleton, 7164.

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Poor Law Extension Act, justifiable under the circumstances of famine,	Gore, - - 2274. Nicholls, - - 5363. 5501. 5544. Twisleton, - - 6707. 6741. Otway, - - 8851.
—— its mischievous effects as regards the able-bodied,	Gulson, - - 2610. 2660.
—— diminution of mortality owing to,	Fairfield, - - 3554.
—— without external aid, ineffectual for purposes of relief,	Twisleton, - - 6765.
Poor Law Valuation, not a fair basis for a Rate in Aid or Property Tax,	Griffith, - - 2800. 2888. Stewart, - - 4775.
—— varies in some districts to the extent of 50 per cent.,	Kincaid, - - 3066.
—— frequently above the actual value	Kincaid, - - 3070. Bourke, - - 3956 Brett, - - 4926.
—— its intention not apparently to lower unduly valuation of occupying tenants,	Kincaid, - - 3088.
—— practice in case of holdings under £. 4,	Brett, - - 4958.
—— in some districts according to fair letting value	Otway, - - 8963.
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Population, its reduction in proportion to capital, necessary	Senior, - - 1663. Gore, - - 2128. Kincaid, - - 3130. Bourke, - - 3886. Brett, - - 4876.
—— causes of its diminution in distressed districts	Gore, - - 2141. Fairfield, - - 3618. Bourke, - - 3876. Leader, - - 4370. Hamilton, - - 4574. Brett, - - 4870. 4990. Labalmondiere - 5717. Farren, - - 6331. Lucas, - - 6456. Clarke, - - 7498. 7785. Naper, - - 8419. Otway, - - 8836.
—— cannot be supported in certain districts on cereal food,	Griffith, - - 2817. Fairfield, - - 3410. Hamilton, - - 4597. 4661. Twisleton, - - 7448. Strzelecki, - - 8590.
—— causes of its excess on the sea coast,	Kincaid, - - 3189. Fairfield, - - 3493. Stewart, - - 4805. Clarke, - - 7610. 7712. Otway, - - 8812.
—— excessive on estates let on long leases,	Fairfield, - - 3736.
—— increased by subdivision,	Leader, - - 4431. Farren, - - 6347.
—— hitherto greatest in most pauperised districts	Stewart, - - 4727. Strzelecki, - - 8581.
—— of England and Ireland, and their respective resources compared,	Stewart, - - 4745.
—— urgency for its diminution,	Stewart, - - 4748. Brett, - - 5270. Nicholls, - - 5572. Naper, - - 8442. 8488.
—— singular and superstitious feeling amongst,	Strzelecki, - - 8528. 8635.
Potatoes, probable consequences if abundant next year	Senior, - - 1714. Bourke, - - 4172. Hamilton, - - 4522. Stewart, - - 4749.
—— determination to cultivate on the part of the people,	Gore, - - 2248. Twisleton, - - 6836. Clarke, - - 7641. 7709.
—— their injurious effect on good land, and on the payment of rent,	Fairfield, - - 3561. 3598.
—— influence exerted by a certain class to effect their cultivation,	Fairfield, - - 3573.
—— from their uncertainty, in a series of years, not productive of larger amount of rent than other culture,	Fairfield, - - 3576. 3593.
—— transition from to corn cultivation, only to be effected by emigration,	Fairfield, - - 3602. Bourke, - - 4232. Stewart, - - 4748.

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POTATOES, the cause of excessive population,	Kincaid, 3189. Fairfield, 3493. Stewart, 4748. 4805.
——— unusual cheapness of, at Killarney,	Clarke, 7571.
——— favourable opportunity offered by the failure of, to the improvement of the social state,	Clarke, 7801.
POWER, ALFRED, Esquire, Assistant Poor Law Commissioner for Ireland, Evidence of,	1 to 830.
PROPERTY TAX, more likely to be submitted to than a Rate in Aid,	Gulson, 1154. 2687. Senior, 1792. Brett, 4968. Twisleton, 7396. Holden, 9356.
——— a more equitable mode of relieving distress than Rate in Aid,	Gulson, 2618. 2708. Fairfield, 3708.
——— if levied in Ireland, would defray cost of additional Workhouses,	Gulson, 2683.
——— adequate machinery for its collection,	Gulson, 2686. Griffith, 2881.
——— imposition of, desirable for general, but not for Poor Law purposes,	Fairfield, 3714.
——— estimated amount of,	Stewart, 7052.
PROPERTY, estimated depreciation of,	Stewart, 7054.
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PUBLIC PROPERTY, its exemption from Rates,	Power, 774. Kincaid, 3276. Clarke, 7816.
——— proposed mode of rating the rents derived from,	Power, 790. 808. Clarke, 7821.
——— construction as to rating of, by the Court of Queen's Bench,	Power, 795. Clarke, 7816.
——— rule in England as to its exemption,	Power, 820.
PUBLIC WORKS, abuses and demoralization under, and obstacles caused by, to the due administration of the Poor Law,	Huband, 1427. Martin, 2034. Gore, 2271. Kennedy, 2357. 2374. Griffith, 2977. Fairfield, 3431. Stewart, 4734. Brett, 5207. 5231. Labalmondiere, 5778. Twisleton, 6722. 6736. Clarke, 7493. 7584. Larcom, 8372. 8389. Burgoyne, 8695. Otway, 8956. Holden, 9326.
——— the result of, not commensurate with the outlay,	Griffith, 2965. 2984. Kincaid, 3206. Brett, 5209. Larcom, 8382. Burgoyne, 8686. 8694. Archer, 9076.
——— beneficial in certain cases,	Griffith, 2979. Archer, 9083.
——— relief under, not so economical, and more demoralizing than the gratuitous relief subsequently adopted,	Griffith, 2988.
——— successful operations under, in Kerry,	Fairfield, 3620.
——— in what degree their benefit proportioned to the cost,	Brett, 5212. 5240.
——— their mischievous result in Mayo,	Brett, 5223.
——— estimated benefit caused by to counties,	Larcom, 8376.
——— employment on, of the able-bodied only, recommended under the present pressure,	Larcom, 8385.
——— operation of the Act equal to what was anticipated,	Burgoyne, 8658. Archer, 9072.
——— if for relief only, an evil,	Burgoyne, 8684.
——— difficulty of introducing task-work under,	Burgoyne, 8737.

Q.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
Quarter-acre Clause, surrender under, not valid,	Power, 311. Fairfield, 3626.
—— not invariably insisted on in England,	Power, 321. Twisleton, 6857.
—— how differing from the law in England under similar circumstances,	Power, 329. 411.
—— its operation,	Power, 361. Martin, 2578. Fairfield, 3613. Bourke, 4186. Hamilton, 4695. Stewart, 4807. Brett, 4992. Farren, 6179. Lucas, 6697. Twisleton, 6861. Clarke, 7645. Archer, 9216.
—— relief to wife and children under, legal, but head of the family punishable in case of wilful neglect,	Power, 366. Lucas, 6684. Twisleton, 6864. 6875.
—— its interpretation by the Tralee Guardians, and their refusal to comply with Mr. Henn's opinion,	Fairfield, 3622.
—— too stringent in periods of famine, but its provisions necessary	Twisleton, 6855. 6908.
—— under what circumstances surrender of, compulsory by Relieving Officer	Twisleton, 6887.

R.

Railways, employment caused by, in certain districts, and their effect on Out-door Relief,	Power, 65. Senior, 1507. Leader, 4456.
—— in most districts would give return upon capital ultimately,	Kennedy, 2352. Brett, 5172. 5201.
—— change in the law for their protection necessary,	Kennedy, 2353.
—— after construction, likely to cause absorption of labour on other works,	Brett, 5204.
—— propositions for the establishment of,	Burgoyne, 8770.
—— importance of communication by, from Galway to Dublin	Bewley, 9501.
Rate Books contain neither names of occupiers nor of lessors,	Kincaid, 3028. Farren, 6253. Twisleton, 7002.
—— inaccuracy of, and improvements suggested for,	O'Shaughnessy 7919. 8068.
Rate-payers, liable for costs of legal proceedings taken for recovery of Union debts	Bourke, 4003.
Rate in Aid, practically in force before the famine,	Power, 288.
—— ineffectual in the case of Cholesbury parish	Power, 579. Gulson, 1142. 2636. Senior, 1648.
—— unjust, except as Property Tax,	Gulson, 1138. 2615. 2750. Stewart, 4772. 7053. Fairfield, 3705. Brett, 4971.
—— sanctioned by the law in England,	Gulson, 1139. 2627. Senior, 1748.
—— general disapproval of, and its probable consequences if adopted,	Gulson, 1149. 2687. Huband, 1473. Senior, 1637. 1646. 1670. Gore, 2091. Griffith, 2982. Bourke, 3987. Hamilton, 4461. Stewart, 4773. 7053. Twisleton, 7220. 7248. 7338. Otway, 8901. 8966. Holden, 9248. 9283. 9358.
—— if enforced, will practically be administered by Guardians,	Gulson, 1170.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
RATE IN AID, modes suggested in lieu of:	
(1.) Compelling solvent Unions to pay up instalments of Workhouse debt, already due for relief of the insolvent,	Senior, - - 1680.
(2.) Imposition of Income Tax,	Senior, - - 1680. Fairfield, - - 3708.
——— general observations and suggestions on,	Kennedy, - - 2333. 2462.
——— under what restrictions essential,	Kennedy, - - 2339.
——— difficulties attending the law of, in England,	Gulson, - - 2669.
——— its application in the Counties Down and Clare compared	Griffith, - - 2891.
——— its collection in some districts impossible,	Brett, - - 4974. Holden, - - 9268. 9286. 9363.
——— if levied by separate authority, less likely to interfere with the operation of the Poor Law	Twisleton, - - 7401.
——— as levied in Scotland in 1783, not analogous to the present case	Twisleton, - - 7408.
RATES:	
——— practice as to outstanding arrears of,	Power, - - 295. Martin, - - 1968.
——— arrears of, not included in requirements, but considered as assets,	Power, - - 303.
——— arrears of, leviable on Electoral Division only in which they arise,	Power, - - 307. Martin, - - 1970.
——— party taking new lease liable for arrears of, and the consequences,	Power, - - 476. Martin, - - 1968. Kincaid, - - 3267. Twisleton, - - 6936.
——— how recoverable from lands in arrear,	Power, - - 488. 570. Senior, - - 1787. Gore, - - 2100. Kincaid, - - 3023. Bourke, - - 4200. Crampton, - - 5854. Farren, - - 6386. Twisleton, - - 6957. O'Shaughnessy - 8074. Otway, - - 8932.
——— power to excuse, in England,	Power, - - 494.
——— comparative extent of exemption in England and Ireland,	Power, - - 501. 520. Twisleton - - 6920.
——— exemptions from, in England rare, and how conducted,	Power, - - 505.
——— arrears of, in distressed districts, not excessive,	Power, - - 535. 575. 601. Crampton, - - 5917. Twisleton, - - 7303. Otway, - - 8960. Archer, - - 9099.
——— where uncollected, remain an obligation on the land,	Power, - - 548. 563. Martin, - - 1968. 2069. Gore, - - 2297. Gulson, - - 2694. Bourke, - - 3945. Hamilton, - - 4685. Brett, - - 4859. Crampton, - - 5915. Farren, - - 6367. Twisleton, - - 6914.
——— power of payment of, compared with England,	Power, - - 607.
——— effect of their uncertain extent on employment and cultivation,	Power, - - 731. Bourke, - - 3945. 3889. Leader, - - 4319. Hamilton, - - 4482. 4513. Brett, - - 4835. 5033. Nicholls, - - 5457. Labalmondiere, - 5738. Crampton, - - 5914. 6047. Farren, - - 6352. Lucas, - - 6582. Twisleton, - - 7272. 7313. O'Shaughnessy, - 8092. Naper, - - 8462. Otway, - - 8908. Archer, - - 9221. Bewley, - - 9524.
——— amount collected in several Provinces during the year ending 29th September 1848,	Power, - - 760.
——— effect of their being paid by landlord, and not by occupier,	Gulson, - - 1093. Gore, - - 2182. Leader, - - 4452.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
RATES—*continued.*	
—— on tenements under £. 4, to be thrown on landlord	Gulson, 1096. 1113.
—— must be paid by landlord, even in case of nonpayment of rent	Gulson, 1102. Gore, 2182.
—— better paid in Ulster than in England,	Senior, 1606. 1638.
—— mode of recovery under English and Irish Poor Law not similar	Senior, 1788. Gulson, 2694. Bourke, 4200.
—— exemption from, recommended for a fixed period, in case of an improved property	Kincaid, 3332.
—— their effect on rent and cultivation	Fairfield, 3544. Bourke, 3823.
—— arrears of, greatest on mountain districts,	Bourke, 3935.
—— proportion of, paid by tenant, about the same as in England	Bourke, 3972.
—— for the maintenance of the poor, to be levied on all property in an Electoral Division,	Bourke, 4158.
—— effect on parties exempted from,	Leader, 4452. Brett, 5293.
—— not more difficult of collection, on small tenements, than the County Cess,	Stewart, 4780.
—— impolicy of remitting arrears of,	Brett, 5293. Twisleton, 6927. 6942. Stewart, 7060.
—— though equal in amount, heavier in Ireland than in England,	Nicholls, 5444.
—— reasons why they were divided between landlord and occupier on the introduction of the Poor Law,	Nicholls, 5617.
—— for tenements under certain value in England, occasionally paid by landlord,	Nicholls,
—— frauds practised to escape payment of,	Twisleton, 6803.
—— causes of diminished ability to pay,	Stewart, 7049.
—— on Electoral Divisions in towns not so heavy as on Rural Divisions,	Stewart, 7051.
—— when payable by occupier as in England, preferable to the mode in Ireland,	Twisleton, 7251.
(*See* Poor Law. Occupiers. Maximum.)	
Relief, receipt of, in England, does not divest person of his property, but recoverable if by loan,	Power, 331.
—— can only be given to the able-bodied when destitute,	Senior, 1874.
—— in case of emergency, to be met by Treasury Grant, and taxation to be assimilated to England	Gulson, 2618. 2651. 2677. Fairfield, 3713. Stewart, 4771. Twisleton, 7367. 7395.
—— administration of, in case of famine, to be kept distinct from ordinary administration of the Poor Law,	Gulson, 2622. 2662.
—— to be confined to the Workhouse, except in case of general destitution,	Brett, 5395. 5506. Lucas, 6693.
—— in raw food least expensive,	Lucas, 6677.
—— in cooked food least liable to abuse,	Burgoyne, 8714. Bewley, 9416.
—— suggested publication of the names of the recipients of,	Archer, 9215.
Relief Fund, injudicious outlay of,	Stewart, 4735. 4758.
—— its demoralizing effects,	Clarke, 7567.
Relief Committees, composition and operation of,	Burgoyne, 8709. Archer, 9047.
—— numbers receiving rations under,	Burgoyne, 8720.
Removal, Law of, as regards Irish paupers, and remedy proposed for,	Senior, 1894.
—— of English different from that of Irish paupers,	Senior, 1902.
Relieving Officers, control of, by Boards of Guardians objected to,	Power, 126. Martin, 2050.
—— their districts occasionally too extensive,	Power, 161. Archer, 9208.
—— useful for administration of In-door Relief,	Power, 169. 217. 225.
—— their duties and average salary,	Power, 179. 230. 244. Martin, 2048. 2572. Farren, 6169.
—— intimidation of,	Power, 182. Martin, 2045. Stewart, 4762. Nicholls, 5425. Archer, 9210.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
Relieving Officers, have power to grant provisional relief, &c. in cases of urgency,	Power, 235. Martin, 2560. Crampton, 5977.
——— more efficient of late than when first appointed,	Power, 193. Farren, 6173. Lucas, 6462.
——— cases of removals of, from incompetency,	Power, 195. Farren, 6177.
——— may have particular duties assigned to them by Commissioners,	Power, 202.
——— their conduct inquired into before dismissal,	Power, 206.
——— when dismissed, Vice-guardians may appoint,	Power, 209.
——— proposed appointment of, with small salaries,	Power, 228.
——— their necessity in each Union,	Power, 234.
——— their extended powers compared with those of Wardens,	Power, 238. 247.
——— liable to favouritism and corruption,	Martin, 2043. Archer, 9208.
——— only necessary in case of sealed Order,	Stewart, 4785.
——— impositions practised on,	Labalmondiere, 5768.
——— have power to compel surrender of land on granting relief,	Twisleton, 6887.
Rescues, causes of,	O'Shaughnessy, 8047.
Re-valuation, distinguished from Revision of Valuation,	Power, 419. 443. Nicholls, 5649.
Revision of Valuation, cost of, to Unions,	Brett, 4936.
Rivers Act, operations under,	Griffith, 2950. Burgoyne, 8748.
Rundale System, explained,	Gore, 2136.
——— gradual extinction of,	Otway, 8904.
Rye, consumed in the Poor-houses chiefly supplied from Russia	Brett, 5335.
——— cultivation of, recommended on waste and bog land,	Brett, 5341. Lucas, 6533.
——— possesses greater amount of nutriment than Indian meal	Lucas, 6537.
Roscommon, its condition,	Kincaid, 3177. 3215. Bourke, 3869.
——— causes of tenants threatening to surrender their farms,	Kincaid, 3201.

S.

Scariff Union, rates and requirements in,	Power, 260. 558. Stewart, 761. 4743.
——— correspondence with the contractors for,	Appendix.
——— Valuation of,	Griffith, 2807.
Senior, Edward, Esquire, Poor Law Inspector, Evidence of,	1487 to 1929.
Settlement, some mode of, necessary in the present state of affairs,	Gore, 2169. Kennedy, 2335. 2427. Fairfield, 3443. Hamilton, 4491. Stewart, 4776.
——— reasons for fixing a limit of six months,	Kennedy, 2427. 2484.
——— period of six months objected to,	Fairfield, 3446.
——— objections to a law of, detailed,	Nicholls, 5658. 5678. Clarke, 7825. Holden, 9387.
——— practical effect of, in England,	Nicholls, 5662. 5681.
——— definition of,	Clarke, 7825.
——— hardship inflicted on Ireland by the English law of,	Holden, 9384.
——— to be given to the Irish in England equally with the English,	Holden, 9390.
Sheep-stealing, increase of, in the South and West	Kincaid, 3207. Bourke, 3894. Leader, 4315. Stewart, 4742. Naper, 8499.
——— chiefly committed by squatters,	Naper, 8506.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
Society of Friends, experiments of, in Mayo, explained, and their result,	Brett, - - 5264. Bewley, - - 9447. 9474.
——— amount and nature of assistance given by,	Strzelecki, - - 8558. Bewley, - - 9418. 9432.
——— proceedings taken by the Committee of, for the relief of distress,	Bewley, - - 9410. 9445.
——— difficulties encountered by, in the administration of relief,	Bewley, - - 9411. 9440.
——— nature of relief sent to, from America,	Bewley, - - 9439. 9513.
——— cause of the result not being equal to the anticipation, except in the case of Lord Wallscourt,	Bewley, - - 9442. 9498.
——— report of the Committee of,	Bewley, - - 9530.
——— Address to the Public from the Relief Association,	Bewley, - - 9530.
Spade Husbandry, expense of, and increased crops by,	Naper, - - 8428.
Squatters, abject condition of, on bog land,	Hamilton, - - 4617.
Stewart, John Vandeleur, Esquire, Evidence of,	- - - 4724 to 4810. - - - 7047 to 7063.
Stipendiary Magistrates, addition of, necessary,	Archer, - - 9154.
Strzelecki, Count, Evidence of,	8510 to 8653.
Subdivision, carried to the greatest extent in Lurgan Union,	Senior, - - 1545.
——— in Ulster, caused by the manufacture of linen,	Senior, - - 1553.
——— its evils likely to be increased by exemption from Rates,	Gore, - - 2198. Bourke, - - 4132. 4145.
——— most minute on the sea-coast,	Griffith, - - 2823.
——— encouragement given to, by middlemen,	Griffith, - - 2824.
——— profitable to middlemen only,	Fairfield, - - 3357.
——— the cause of increased population,	Leader, - - 4431.
——— detailed extent of, and its disastrous effects,	Stewart, - - 4730. 4803.
——— stimulus given to, by exempting tenements under £. 4,	Stewart, - - 4733.
Subletting, ejectment or notice to quit, the only modes of preventing,	Kincaid, - - 3233. 3251.
Superior Courts, expense of proceedings in, against immediate lessors,	Kincaid, - - 3002. Bourke, - - 4196. O'Shaughnessy, - 7963.
——— reasons for the preference given to, by landlords in ejectment cases,	Fairfield, - - 3728.
——— proceedings in, for recovery of rates discouraged by Commissioners,	Twisleton, - - 7020. 7078.
Swineford Union, distressed condition of,	Bourke, - - 4104.

T.

Table showing the amount of building loan, net value of rateable property, &c. for each Union,	Gulson, - - 867.
——— showing the inequality of Townland and Poor-law Valuation,	Appendix.
——— showing the numbers on Out-door Relief in Glenties Union, from December 1847 to March 1848, and corresponding period, under late and present Boards, &c.	Hamilton, - - 4723.
——— showing the Rate made in Donegal Union, November 1848,	Hamilton, - - 4723.
——— showing the total expenditure in Glenties Union, during the year ending 29th September 1848,	Hamilton, - - 4723.
——— showing the expenses of Union officials under Vice-Guardians,	Stewart, - - 4806.
——— showing the number of applicants for relief, from November 1847 to September 1848, in Castlebar Union,	Farren, - - 6183.
——— the same, during the half-year ended 25th March 1849,	Farren, - - 6183.
——— showing the difference in favour of Out-door Relief, in 1848, compared with the expenditure under the Public Works Act in 1847,	Farren, - - 6314.
——— showing the number of Unions and Electoral Divisions in which a Union and National Rate in Aid would be required in case of 5 *s.* and 7 *s.* maximum being fixed,	Stewart, - - 7048.
——— showing estimate of liabilities of some of the distressed Unions, and the adequacy of the proposed Rate in Aid,	Stewart, - - 7049.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
TABLE showing the collection and expenses of each Union of each month ending 31st March 1849, &c.,	Twisleton, - 7188.
——— showing net debts or net credits; also amount of Poor-rate uncollected at the close of March in the years 1848 and 1849,	Twisleton, - 7188.
——— showing the old Unions which will be reduced in extent by the establishment of those proposed, &c.,	Larcom, - 8262.
——— showing the average size of the Electoral Divisions in each Union in Ireland,	Larcom, - 8262.
——— showing the proportion of paupers charged on the Unions at large during six monthly periods, &c.,	Larcom, - 8344.
——— showing the grants made to various Unions, from October 1847 to October 1848,	Strzelecki - 8560.
——— showing the number of persons sent to Belfast from England and Scotland, from July 1847 to March 1849,	Holden, - 9376.
——— showing the expenditure of certain Unions during the years ending 29th September 1846 and 1847,	Twisleton, - 9404.
——— showing the Poor Law Unions in Ireland, in which Out-door Relief is given to able-bodied men, &c.,	Twisleton, - 9404.
——— showing the probable expenses and collection during the half-year ending 29th September 1849, of 32 Unions,	Twisleton, - 9404.
TAXATION of England and Ireland compared,	Stewart, - 7053.
——— undue severity of, on the agricultural interests of Ireland compared with England,	Stewart, - 7056.
——— on towns, as separate electorates, considered,	Larcom, - 8343.
TEMPLEMOYLE, result of the Agricultural School in,	Bewley, - 9480.
TENANT-RIGHT, its present and former value,	Senior, - 1558. 1600 Otway, - 8840.
——— can be left by occupier by bequest,	Senior, - 1571.
——— its fluctuation in value,	Senior, - 1572. Kincaid, - 3229.
TENANTS, extent of security to be given to, for the encouragement of improvements,	Fairfield, - 3720. 3748.
——— debasement of, by small landlords,	Fairfield, - 3731.
——— liable for rates when holding under lease,	Crampton, - 5837.
TOWNLANDS, not applicable for purposes of rating,	Gulson, - 1049. Griffith, - 2839. Stewart, - 4767. Larcom, - 8278. Naper, - 8509.
——— in no case to be divided for purposes of rating,	Kennedy, - 2393.
——— average area of,	Martin, - 2513.
——— where detached, to be combined in one area of taxation,	Stewart, - 7062.
——— boundaries of, to be adhered to,	Larcom, - 8315.
TRALEE UNION, condition of, previous to its division	Fairfield, - 3479.
——— its capability in case of pressure	Fairfield, - 3661.
TRIM UNION, Board of Guardians of, dissolved by Commissioners,	Huband, - 1186. 1280. 1362.
——— efficacy of the Workhouse test in,	Huband, - 1189.
——— supposed reasons of its Guardians wishing to give Out-door Relief,	Huband, - 1249. 1286.
——— its diminished expenditure since the appointment of Vice-Guardians,	Huband, - 1379.
TWISLETON, The Honourable EDWARD TURNER BOYD, Poor Law Commissioner, Evidence of,	6703 to 7047. 7063 to 7488. 9404 to 9407.
TURNIPS, frequent robberies of,	Leader, - 4314. Naper, - 8549.
——— only resource of the lowest class in some districts during the past year	Leader, - 4324. Hamilton, - 4639. Crampton, - 5971.
——— increased price of, owing to the famine,	Leader, - 4328.
——— a more certain crop than potatoes,	Crampton, - 6086.
TUAM UNION, condition of,	Labalmondiere, - 5702. 5766.
——— amount of Out-door Relief,	Lucas, - 6454.
TUSCANY, the famine in, in 1346, as described by Sismondi, not to be compared to that of 1847, in Ireland,	Strzelecki, - 8571.
TYRAWLEY BARONY distressed condition of,	Bourke, - 4177.

U.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
Ulster, more judicious administration of the law in, than in the South and West,	Power, - - 67.
——— principles adopted in the formation of its Unions, and their effect on the administration of the Poor Law,	Power, - - 75. Gulson, - - 837. 848. 2733. Senior, - - 1615. Bourke, - - 4089. Larcom, - - 8255.
Unions, in which no Out-door Relief has been administered amount to 25 in number	Power, - - 12. 43. 63.
——— net annual value of, not a criterion of amount of distress,	Power, - - 34.
——— in which Out-door Relief has been discontinued,	Power, - - 137.
——— different orders for, under sec. 2, and impositions caused thereby,	Power, - - 141. Labalmondiere, - 5768. Lucas, - - 6666. Twisleton, - - 6886. Clarke, - - 7725. Otway, - - 8793.
——— in which Vice-Guardians are now acting,	Power, - - 250.
——— liable for arrears of Rate,	Power, - - 539. Twisleton, - - 7202.
——— statement of where equal Rates have been made,	Power, - - 763.
——— instruction issued for, on their first formation,	Gulson, - - 834.
——— causes of their being restricted as to number,	Gulson, - - 849.
——— principles observed on their formation,	Gulson, - - 1043. Bourke, - - 4042. Nicholls - - 5691.
——— their comparative size in different provinces,	Gulson, - - 1173. Huband, - - 1302. Senior, - - 1614.
——— in case of subdivision, new Workhouses essential,	Power, - - 700. Gulson, - - 1120. 1131. Martin, - - 2552. Fairfield, - - 3492. Bourke, - - 4025. Twisleton, - - 7422. Clarke, - - 7845. Larcom, - - 8200. Strzelecki, - - 8517. Otway, - - 8863.
——— incapable of furnishing funds for building new Workhouses,	Martin, - - 2551. Fairfield, - - 3499. Crampton, - 5946. Clarke, - - 7843.
——— in case of subdivision, might use same Workhouse in common, so far as regards cost,	Fairfield, - - 3506.
——— facilities for fraud in proportion to their extent,	Bourke, - - 4054.
——— best administered when consisting of small number of large parishes,	Nicholls, - - 5432. 5689.
——— their size in some districts an obstacle to the proper administration of the law,	Lucas, - - 6600.
——— case of writs issued against,	Twisleton, - - 6821.
——— reasons for not making them areas of taxation,	Twisleton, - - 7226.
——— cases in which funds have been advanced to, without the dissolution of the Boards of Guardians,	Twisleton, - - 7477.
——— principles to be observed in case of their reduction,	Clarke, - - 7825.
——— reduced area of, in the South and West, necessary,	Larcom, - - 8186. Strzelecki, - - 8512.
——— in which Out-door Relief is given under first limitation of sealed Order,	Otway, - - 8787.
Union Rate, how differing from Poundage Rate on Electoral Divisions,	Power, - - 257. Senior, - - 1631.
——— if levied, not to be levied in conjunction with Electoral Division Rate,	Gulson, - - 2617.
——— its probable effect on improving proprietors,	Gulson, - - 2713.
——— reasons for objecting to,	Twisleton, - - 7222.
——— impossible of collection in certain Unions,	Twisleton, - - 7233.
——— likely to be a remedy in certain Unions only,	Twisleton, - - 7263.

V.

Vagrants, demands made by, for relief for the purpose of being committed to prison,	Clarke, - - 7824.

(*See* Offences.)

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
VALUATIONS:	
—— want of uniformity of, in Unions and Electoral Divisions,	Power, - - 53. Nicholls, - - 5652. Twisleton, - - 6970. Larcom, - - 8170. Holden, - - 9302.
—— complaints of the unfairness of,	Power, - - 426. Gulson, - - 1089. Martin, - - 1980. Kennedy, - - 2409. Bourke, - - 3815. 3854. Brett, - - 4949.
—— effect on the Rates payable by Landlords, by the diminution of,	Power, - - 446. Gulson, - - 1074. Huband, - - 1255. Martin, - - 1983. Gore, - - 2076. 2182. Kennedy, - - 2411. Griffith, - - 2797. Bourke, - - 4095. Hamilton, - - 4544. Brett, - - 4957.
—— of Poor Law, and of Mr. Griffith, compared,	Power, - - 440. 453. Senior, - - 1777. Martin, - - 1976. Gore, - - 2077. Griffith, - - 2797. Kincaid, - - 3067. 3083. Bourke, - - 4116. Brett, - - 4918. Holden, - - 9301.
—— of Mr. Griffith explained, and how far applicable to Poor Rates,	Power, - - 663. Martin, - - 1997. Griffith, - - 2774. Kincaid, - - 3077. 3079. Brett, - - 4917. 4965.
—— their present mode of revision objectionable,	Gulson, - - 1089.
—— occasionally made from report only,	Martin, - - 2028.
—— comparative payment on, in England and Ireland,	Martin, - - 2604.
—— imperfect, for any general purpose,	Gulson, - - 2744. Hamilton, - - 4531. Stewart, - - 4775.
—— of townlands, intended for purposes of County Assessment, and not with reference to the Poor Law,	Griffith, - - 2775. 2937. Brett, - - 4918.
—— of tenements for Poor Law purposes and its basis,	Griffith, - - 2777. Nicholls, - - 5599.
—— of townlands, from 20 to 25 per cent. under that of tenements,	Griffith, - - 2781.
—— of County Rate and Poor Rate, might be combined, as in England, without alteration of the law,	Griffith, - - 2789.
—— compared with area and population in different localities,	Griffith, - - 2811.
—— compared with real letting value,	Griffith, - - 2895. Hamilton, - - 4518. Crampton, - - 5894.
—— required by law to be made according to reasonable letting value, and not according to temporary circumstances,	Griffith, - - 2901. Kincaid, - - 3050. Nicholls, - - 5599.
—— deductions from, consequent on potato failure,	Griffith, - - 2917.
—— deductions from, on account of Poor Rate,	Griffith, - - 2921. Kincaid, - - 3068. 3078. Stewart, - - 4743.
—— general revision of, by order of Poor Law Commissioners,	Kincaid, - - 3092.
—— revision by order of Poor Law Commissioners, different in practice in Unions under Elected and Vice-Guardians,	Kincaid, - - 3095.
—— of 1842 fairly made, and more equable than in England,	Nicholls, - - 5591. 5645.
—— their constant correction necessary,	Nicholls, - - 5604.
—— alteration in, necessary in case of imposing a maximum Rate,	Twisleton, - - 7283. 7335.
VALUATORS, Directions issued to, by Commissioners	Power, - - 442. Nicholls, - - 5645. Twisleton, - - 6970.
—— bound to value rateable tenements at letting value, subject to deductions	Power, - - 462.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
Valuators, frequently incompetent to perform their duties,	Martin, - - 1980. 2004. Kennedy, - - 2414. Kincaid, - - 3058. 3089. Bourke, - - 4100. Nicholls, - 5648.
——— their favouritism towards cottiers,	Martin - - 1983. 2025.
——— may be displaced by Commissioners in case of incompetency,	Kennedy, - - 2417.
——— scale of remuneration to, too low to ensure a competent class,	Kincaid, - - 3090.
——— when appointed by Guardians, objected to	Leader, - - 4446. Hamilton, - - 4534. Stewart, - - 4781.
Ventry, Lord, estate of, described,	Fairfield, - 3360. 3546. 3562.
Vice-Guardians, no Union Rate under,	Power, - - 253.
——— their position with the Poor Law Commissioners,	Power, - - 386. Twisleton, - - 6758.
——— their efficiency compared with elected Boards,	Power, - - 645. Huband, - - 1387. Gore, - - 2090. Fairfield, - - 3538.
——— their powers of making Rates,	Power, - - 719.
——— not necessary in Ulster, in lieu of elected Boards,	Senior, - - 1673.
——— their assistance where most requisite,	Fairfield, - - 3744. Crampton, - - 5949.
——— intimidation of, and employment of military for their protection,	Bourke, - - 3827.
——— disapproval of their appointment,	Stewart, - - 4782.
——— impositions practised on,	Brett, - - 5047.
——— responsible for the death of a pauper, when turned out of the Workhouse,	Labalmondiere, - 5815.
——— have no power to avail themselves of information possessed by the police, for detecting abuses of relief,	Farren, - - 6165.
——— possess merely discretionary power of taxation, subject to responsibility to the Commissioners,	Twisleton, - - 7097.
——— cases of removal for misappropriation,	Twisleton, - - 7114.
——— fallacy of supposing their management of Unions to be inferior to that of elected Boards, from the number of paupers relieved,	Twisleton, - - 7473.
——— their appointment in distressed districts defended,	Twisleton, - - 7474. Clarke, - - 7832. Strzelecki - - 8527. 8544.
——— the proper administrators of relief given from external means,	Twisleton, - - 7477.

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Wages, to be kept separate from relief,	Huband, - - 1406. Senior, - - 1634. Kennedy, - - 2424. 2447. Martin, - - 2543. Bourke, - - 4275. Nicholls, - 5417. Larcom, - - 8252. 8379.
——— disposition to work for, greater since 1845,	Gore, - - 2146.
——— instance of their being preferred to Out-door Relief,	Gore, - - 2282.
——— amount of, under the Land Improvement Act,	Bourke, - - 4296. Leader, - - 4403. Clarke, - - 7690.
——— rate of, compared with England,	Twisleton, - - 7387.
Waiver, definition of,	Leader, - - 4430.
Waste Land, cultivation of, of primary importance, where heretofore fertile,	Gore, - - 2226.
——— how valued,	Kincaid, - - 3084. 3098.
——— increasing extent of,	Kincaid, - - 3293. O'Shaughnessy, - 8084.
——— colonization of, by migration from other districts, proved to be unprofitable,	Kincaid, - - 3316. 3335.
——— its improvement not advantageous since the potato failure	Kincaid, - - 3330. Stewart, - - 4789.
(*See* Land.)	
Westport Union, arrear of debt in,	Gore, - - 2117. Bourke, - - 3829.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
WESTMEATH, Marquess of, account of proceedings taken against, for recovery of rates, as immediate lessor,	Kincaid, - - 3002. Twisleton, - - 7005.
WORKHOUSES:	
—— accommodation in, varies in different Unions according to the different administration of the law, -	Power, - - 43. Huband, - - 1445.
—— indisposition on the part of the people to enter, not so great as formerly, - - - - - - -	Power, - - 81. Senior, - - 1827. 1877. Martin, - - 1939. Gore, - - 2281. Fairfield, - - 3644. Clarke, - - 7629.
—— additional number of, necessary in case of new Unions,	Power, - - 700. Gulson, - - 1120. 1131. Fairfield, - - 3492. Bourke, - - 4025. Twisleton, - - 7422. Clarke, - - 7845.
—— any additional number of, can only be built by Government aid, - - - - - - - - -	Power, - - 702. Fairfield, - - 3499. Bourke, - - 4027. Larcom, - - 8227.
—— building loans for, difficult to obtain, - - -	Power - - 706.
—— sites for, how selected, - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 838.
—— causes of their limited accommodation when first formed, - - - - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 852. Nicholls, - - 5466. Lucas, - - 6596.
—— their average cost and capabilities, - - - -	Gulson, - - 869.
—— compulsory power of taking land for sites for, not possessed by Unions, - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 873. Larcom, - - 8247.
—— sites for, near market towns recommended, - -	Gulson, - - 878. Larcom, - - 8235.
—— in large towns, liable to preponderating influence of resident Guardians, - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 892.
—— their original cost not extravagant, - - - -	Gulson, - - 904. Lucas, - - 6620. Larcom, - - 8218.
—— not sufficiently inspected by Boards of Guardians, -	Huband, - - 1196.
—— cases of pressure on, for the purpose of obtaining Out-door Relief, - - - - - - - - -	Huband, - - 1414. Gore, - - 2270. Gulson, - - 2659. Fairfield, - - 3651. Hamilton, - - 4715. Clarke, - - 7730. Otway, - - 8790. 8854.
—— property of, liable to be seized under execution, -	Gore, - - 2120. Bourke, - - 4004. Farren, - - 6282.
—— increase of, chief motive for increased number of Unions, - - - - - - - - - -	Fairfield, - - 3512.
—— sufficient for the amount of pauperism before the famine, - - - - - - - - - -	Hamilton, - - 4717.
—— at what age children to be eligible for, - - -	Stewart, - - 4788.
—— to be confined solely to the aged and infirm, - -	Brett, - - 5245.
—— inadequate means possessed by, of inflicting punishment, and modes suggested - - - -	Labalmondiere, - 5814. Clarke, - - 7803.
(*See* UNIONS.)	
WORKHOUSES, NEW, estimated cost of building, and proposed size of, - - - - - - - - - -	Larcom, - - 8208.
WORKHOUSE OFFICIALS, to be appointed by the Government, or by Poor-Law Commissioners, - - -	Gulson, - - 958.
—— appointments of, may be set aside by Commissioners,	Gulson, - - 1017.
—— Non-commissioned Officers of the Army best adapted for, - - - - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 1020.
—— list of, required for, - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 1036.
—— average cost of, - - - - - - - -	Bourke, - - 4038.
WORKHOUSE DEBT, amount of already due, - - -	Senior, - - 1681.
WORKHOUSE EDUCATION, superior to that taught in National Schools, - - - - - - - - - -	Lucas, - - 6697.
WORKHOUSE LOANS, not repudiated by the Unions of Ireland,	Stewart, - - 7057.

General Heads.	Name of Witness and Number of Question.
WORKHOUSE TEST:	
——— its absolute necessity, - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 916. 2610. Fairfield, - - 3492. Bourke, - - 4030. Stewart, - - 4762. Nicholls, - - 5395. Lucas, - - 6663. Twisleton, - - 7435. Clarke, - - 7829. 7853. Larcom, - - 8183. Otway, - - 8808.
——— its efficacy, - - - - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 917. 949. 2711. Gore, - - 2280. Fairfield, - - 3647. Nicholls, - - 5475. Lucas, - - 6465. 6664. Twisleton, - - 7437. Clarke, - - 7497. Otway, - - 8792.
——— not so well understood in the South and West as in the North, - - - - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 979.
——— capable of defraying its own cost, including expense of new building, - - - - - - - - -	Gulson, - - 1125, 2680. Fairfield, - - 3494. Bourke, - - 4025. 4051. Lucas, - - 6662. Twisleton, - - 7433. Clarke, - - 7850. Larcom, - - 8212.
——— its efficiency greatest under good discipline, - -	Power, - - 689. Huband, - - 1314. Gore, - - 2288. Martin, - - 2568. Farren, - - 6199. Lucas, - - 6463. Larcom, - - 8217. Otway, - - 8803.
——— comparatively inoperative with females as compared with males, - - - - - - - - -	Senior, - - 1877.
——— inoperative in certain Unions, - - - - -	Stewart, - - 4762.
——— not to be applied to the able-bodied pauper, - -	Brett, - 5247.